

# Equity, diversity and inclusion in community involvement in Maternity and Perinatal Mental Health Research

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# Research: Maternity and Perinatal Mental Health

- **Current issues in SE London:** poorer outcomes for women & babies living in areas of social disadvantage & from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups



- What are the reasons for this?
  - What models of care can help?
  - How can care & outcomes for women with mental illness be improved?
  - We want to involve women, communities and relevant organisations in our strategy from the beginning of our work.
  - We would value your advice on how best to engage and involve people.
- We aim to **reduce health inequalities** & have a **positive impact** on health & wellbeing of **women & families** in the **local community**

# Participatory appraisal methodology and co-production

- Children's centres/community hubs
- Online engagement events

PA/co-production training: Involving diverse communities (Facilitator: Emily Ahmed)

- attended by 29 people:

- 14 community members with experience of using maternity or perinatal mental health services (Black (9), White European (2) White British (2) and Mixed ethnicity (1));
- 15 researchers/policymakers

*“(Co-production is) an approach in which researchers, practitioners and the public work together, sharing power and responsibility from the start to the end of the project, including the generation of knowledge’ (Hickey et al, 2018, p4).*

<https://bit.ly/3rhyOk4>



NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration  
South London

Maternity and perinatal mental health research

Involving diverse communities in research – learning from a co-production training event



“Co-producing a research project is an approach in which researchers, practitioners and the public work together, sharing power and responsibility from the start to the end of the project, including the generation of knowledge” (NIHR, April 2021)

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# Participatory appraisal methodology and co-production

## Messages for researchers

- Think about PPIE in research, and involve service users from the outset, with a focus on equity, diversity and inclusion
- Include full PPIE costs in the funding application, and build in contingency (time and budget)
- Find out what does (and might) motivate people to get involved in research
- Think creatively about ways of rewarding individuals and organisations

## ARC-SL and NIHR

- How can the research community build PPIE leadership capacity?
  - Can we get NIHR to recognise the need for PPI intermediaries to work between, and alongside, researchers and communities?
- <https://bit.ly/3rhyOk4>

# Practice example One: Midwifery continuity of carer - a research update webinar



**POPPIE: Pilot study of midwifery  
Practice in Preterm Birth Including  
Women's Experiences**



<https://rb.gy/nmglix>

# Practice example two: health and social care interventions to reduce maternal, newborn and infant health inequalities in high-income countries: a systematic review

**NIHR** | National Institute for Health Research

**PROSPERO**  
International prospective register of systematic reviews

[Print](#) | [PDF](#)

Health and social care interventions to reduce maternal, newborn and infant health inequalities in high-income countries: a systematic review

