Ealing Community Involvement in Research Event Report

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Executive summary

Approach

The Imperial Biomedical Research Centre Patient Experience Research Centre (PERC), in collaboration with Saira Minhas—member of the Ealing Parent Carer Forum and Imperial Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) Community Partner—organised this event, where the local community was invited to get involved in research, with a particular focus on involving Ealing Parent Carers.

Ealing Parent Carers are parents and carers of disabled children and young people, up to the age of 25, who live in Ealing. Saira's established relationships within the community were instrumental in building trust and encouraging attendance.

The event was similar to a previous public involvement methodology used by PERC, called a People's Research Cafe, and was co-designed with Saira, who supported the engagement and design process to adapt it to the needs of the local community. It aimed to inspire parent carers and the local community to get involved in research, ensuring their voices were heard and healthcare research addressed their needs. It also provided a platform for researchers to gather valuable feedback in an informal pop-up café setting, allowing visitors to learn about public involvement and see examples in action.

Event overview

The project selection criteria focused on topics that were a priority for the community hosting the event. Saira guided the selection process, choosing projects based on these priorities. Additionally, the criteria included projects at any stage of the research cycle, as long as they were still open to being influenced or improved by the community's feedback. Out of the 13 applications submitted, 9 projects were selected.

The event took place on Thursday, October 10th, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the West Acton Community Centre. Nine tables were hosted by at least one researcher and co-hosted by an Imperial BRC Community Partner, to engage visitors in discussions about their projects. The 25 community visitors in attendance rotated between tables every 15 to 30 minutes, allowing them to learn about different research projects and share their feedback.

Feedback and impact

The feedback from all attendees highlighted the strengths such as the positive atmosphere and organisation. Suggestions for improvement included better acoustics, easier venue access to increase footfall on the day and healthier food options.



The event's key impacts included:

- **Visitor insights influenced research projects discussed at the event**, with outcomes shared on the PERC website. This contributes to achievement of the second aim of the Imperial BRC Public Involvement, Engagement and Participation in Research (PPIEP) Strategy: to involve the public in BRC projects and activities and plan this from the outset.
- **Involving community members who have not previously been involved in research.** For most visitors, this was their first public involvement activity and therefore contributed to the achievement of the third aim of the Imperial BRC PPIEP Strategy: to engage and involve communities in our population which are underrepresented and under-served in research.
- **Building capacity and confidence in researchers.** Following the event researchers reported increased knowledge of, and confidence in undertaking, public involvement. This contributed to the achievement of the fifth aim of the Imperial BRC PPIEP Strategy: to build capacity and confidence in BRC researchers to enable them to involve the public in research.
- **Building capacity and confidence in Community Partners** and visitors to support and facilitate public involvement as 8 Community Partners co-hosted the research project discussions with 25 visitors. This contributed to the achievement of the sixth aim of the Imperial BRC PPIEP Strategy: to build capacity and confidence in the public to enable them to get involved in research.

Future similar events will be co-designed with different communities underrepresented in research.

Approach

The Imperial Biomedical Research Centre Patient Experience Research Centre (PERC), in collaboration with Saira Minhas—member of the Ealing Parent Carer Forum[1] and a Imperial Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) Community Partner[2]—organised this event, where the local community was invited to get involved in research, with a particular focus on involving Ealing Parent Carers through Saira's connections.

A parent carer is defined for this purpose as providing care to a child with special educational need or disability for whom they have a parental responsibility. Saira's established relationships within the community were instrumental in building trust and encouraging attendance.

1. Co-designing the event with our Community Partner

To ensure the event was inclusive and relevant to the community, the PERC team held five meetings with Saira to discuss the event's concept and logistics. During these initial discussions, the team proposed to Saira the idea of hosting a health literacy event to help build trust with the community. Saira emphasised that addressing health inequalities was a key area of interest for the community to learn more about.

In response, the PERC team invited Sarindi Aryasinghe, a researcher from the Imperial Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), to speak with Saira, as Sarindi's research focuses on health inequalities in Black maternity care. During their call, which included Saira, Sarindi, and the PERC team, Sarindi shared the public involvement[3] activities conducted as part of her project, and the idea of a community involvement event began to take shape.

Saira explained that parent carers often do not get involved in research for various reasons. One key factor, however, is that researchers have not reached out to them to explain what their research is about and how it may benefit them. The agreed aim of the event, therefore, would be to inspire parent carers and the local community to get involved in research, ensuring their voices are heard and that healthcare research serves their needs. To achieve this, the research projects presented at the event should highlight their public involvement activities—both those already undertaken and those planned.

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1. The Ealing Parent Carer Forum is a community forum for parents and carers of disabled children and young people aged between 0 and 25 who live in Ealing
2. The Imperial BRC Community Partners are groups of members of the public and patients with lived experiences of our research themes which provide Public and Patient Involvement, Engagement and Participation (PPIEP) advice to PERC and our research themes a
3. NIHR defines public involvement in research as research being carried out 'with' or 'by' members of the public rather than 'to', 'about' or 'for' them

The researchers would explain their research projects and have a conversation with attendees, including gathering feedback on three key questions about their projects. During the event, Saira would give a speech explaining that the conversations between attendees and researchers represent what we refer to as 'public involvement' in research—an open dialogue between researchers and the community to inform and shape research This approach will allow attendees to be inspired by experiencing public involvement in a practical way, rather than just in theory. Additional calls and emails were sent to formalise the event logistics.

2. Purpose of the event

This event adopted a similar approach to the People's Research Café, which was previously organised by PERC in various settings, including the Great Exhibition Road Festival and community venues, to take researchers into different settings including the community to get public feedback on their research plans. It was co-designed with Saira, who supported the engagement and design process to adapt it to the needs of the local community.

In line with the aim of inspiring parent carers and the local community to get involved in research, the event also aimed to:

- Bring research projects into the community, allowing researchers to receive valuable feedback to shape their projects in an informal pop-up café setting.
- Give visitors

1..1 examples of public involvement already being undertaken in research projects to provide them with insight into what public involvement in research looks like in practice

1..2 examples of public involvement activities in future public involvement plans

1..3 a taste of providing their views about research i.e. undertake public involvement in research.

3. Projects selection criteria

The PERC team emailed researchers with an invitation to participate in this event. Interested researchers were asked to complete an application form in which they provided their details, a lay summary of their research project, and three possible questions they wished to ask the public about their project. Researchers submitted ay summaries of their projects. Saira reviewed the projects' lay summaries, met with the PERC team to discuss them, and selected the most relevant ones for the parent carer community, based on the criteria outlined below.

i. **Research topic:**
Projects focusing on one or more of the following topics that are a priority to the Ealing parent carer community:

1. improving the health of parent carers
2. Mental health topics: e.g. carer burn-out, anxiety and depression
3. Nutrition
4. Cardiovascular disease
5. The effects of environment on health
6. Research projects already involving parent carers, parents and carers of children in their research (e.g., researchers working on a project to improve care for children in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and therefore they are involving parents and carers in shaping their project).

7. **Acceptability of the research project**. It must: Be palatable to a general adult audience e.g. not likely to cause alarm/distress
8. Not be too niche so that there will be hardly any visitors who could relate to it or provide insights e.g. a rare disease

ii. **Stage of the research cycle:**

Projects can be at any stage of the research cycle. However, the project must be at such a stage that community perspectives are able to influence and improve/change it. For instance, if the project is at the dissemination stage, it is expected that researchers are seeking community perspectives to shape their dissemination plans. If a project is at a later stage in the research cycle, we expected researchers to highlight the public involvement activities they had conducted as part of the conversations they have with the visitors to their table and discuss possible next steps for their project.

4. Selection of projects

- Out of the 13 applications submitted, Saira selected 9 projects. The lay titles and researchers of the selected projects can be found in table 1. There were 9 tables each hosted by a researcher ready to talk to visitors about their research project ideally to gain feedback which would impact it in some way.

Table 1. Selected projects title and their respective researchers.

Project Lay Title	Researchers Presenting the Project
1. Using artificial intelligence to support doctors in delivering personalised cardiovascular care	• Joseph Barker – Clinical Research Fellow in the National Heart and Lung Institute (NHLI) • Boroumand Zeidaabadi – Research Postgraduate in the NHLI • Ahmed El-Medany - Clinical Research Fellow in Cardiology in the NHLI
2. How both doctor's visits and children's respiratory infections have changed since the COVID-19 pandemic	• Kimberley Foley – Research Associate in the School of Public Health
3. How policies to reduce air pollution have impacted respiratory and birth outcomes	• Chang Cai – Research Associate in the School of Public Health
4. Developing a platform to connect people with cardiomyopathy and myocarditis to researchers	• Rachel Buchan – Research Officer in the NHLI • Angharad Roberts – Clinical senior lecturer in cardiovascular genetics in the NHLI
5. How children and families can be followed up after a serious illness	• Emma Alexander - Clinical Research Fellow in Paediatric Intensive Care at St Mary's Hospital in London
6. Using artificial intelligence to personalise the treatment for children with asthma	• Sara Fontanella – Non-clinical Lecturer in Biomedical Modelling in the NHLI
7. Intervention to improve maternity care for Black, African, Caribbean, and mixed-Black heritage families	• Sarindi Aryasinghe – Programme Manager Digital Health and PhD Candidate
8. How patient safety risks arising from language barriers in Paediatric Emergency Departments (PEDs)	• Ricky Odedra – PhD Candidate • Phoebe Averill – Research Associate in Patient Safety
9. How outcomes for pregnant women and their babies differ based on their backgrounds	• Annemarie Lodder - Research Fellow in Parent, Patient and Public Involvement

Table 1: Research projects selected to attend the event

5. Training for Researchers and Imperial BRC Community Partners

A 1.5-hour training session was conducted via Zoom for Imperial BRC Community Partners who would act as conversation facilitators at each table and researchers. During the first 30 minutes, members of the PERC team provided an overview of the event structure, outlined the roles of Imperial staff and Community Partners, and shared the indicative agenda along with other logistical details (refer to point 6 below, titled 'Agenda, and event overview' for more information). Researchers and Imperial BRC Community Partners were also able to ask questions.

- Imperial BRC Community Partners inquired about handling situations where visitors asked researchers about their or their family members' medical conditions.
    - The PERC team acknowledged that such situations might arise during the event. They advised researchers to approach these questions with active listening and empathy. While each inquiry might require a tailored response, researchers should not provide medical advice, as they lack comprehensive knowledge of the individual's medical history. Instead, researchers were requested to signpost visitors to appropriate resources, such as their GP.

During the Zoom session, researchers had the opportunity to meet the Imperial BRC Community Partners with whom they would be co-hosting a table in Zoom breakout rooms in order to:

- Introduce themselves
- Review the lay summary prepared by the researcher, which provides an overview of their project, along with three questions for discussion with the visitors to the event
- Imperial BRC Community Partners were requested to offer feedback on any improvements (in terms of lay language and understanding) which could be made to the:
    - Lay summary
    - Three questions about the research for the visitor

After the training session, the PERC team:

- Encouraged researchers to reach out to PERC if they wished to connect with Imperial BRC Community Partners for additional feedback following the meeting.
- Asked researchers to submit their revised lay summaries and three questions for the visitors. These materials would be printed and placed on the tables for visitors at the event.

6. Agenda, and event overview

- Indicative agenda of the event:

Time	Activity
11:00	Welcome - grab a coffee
11:05	Welcome by a community member
11:10	Select the projects you would like to hear about (research menu – Appendix 1)
12:30	Grab lunch and continue hearing about the projects
1:45	Closing remarks from a member of the Ealing community
2:00	Close

- Venue and time
    i. The date, time, and venue were chosen based on Saira's advice on the most suitable options for the parent carers community, aiming to avoid half-term and school pick-up times.
    ii. The venue was selected for its proximity to a tube station and its location in Ealing. However, it was not situated on a main road.
    iii. The selected date, time, and venue are as follows:
        1. Date: Thursday 10th October
        2. Time: 11:00am to 2:00pm
        3. Venue: West Acton Community Centre, Churchill Gardens, W3 0JN

- Promotion of the event
    i. This event was promoted by Saira through her networks, the Ealing Parent Carer Forum and community centres such as libraries in Ealing.
    ii. The event was also promoted through PERC's networks, including the Ealing NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) and the Imperial BRC Community Partners.

- Attendees' registration
    i. Attendees' registration was made through the Eventbrite website. The registration form only allowed people with the link to register and was not advertised publicly.
    ii. The registration included an overview of the event, the agenda, the projects menu, accessibility aspects of the venue, health and safety considerations, our policies and procedures, including the code of conduct for events.
    iii. To acknowledge community visitors' attendance, they were given a £15 Love2shop voucher. A disclaimer was displayed at the registration desk and mentioned during the event, explaining that the voucher could affect their benefits, as it may be

considered earnings and that signposting to further advice could be provided

- Remuneration for Imperial BRC Community Partners
    i. Community Partners were paid for their time (in accordance with NIHR recommendations) to attend the Zoom training session and for their time spent at the event, as well as travel expenses to get to the venue.

- Catering
    i. Catering was provided by a community member introduced to PERC by Saira.

- Event structure
    i. Upon arrival, community members (visitors) were welcomed by "welcomers" with a hot drink. They were provided with a research menu (see **Appendix 1**) and seated at a waiting table to review the research projects which they could choose to discuss before selecting their preference/s.
    ii. At least one researcher with knowledge of the project was present to host each table for the full 3 hours. However, up to two researchers (maximum) per project were welcomed to help with conversations.
    iii. Visitors rotated between tables of their choice allowing them to hear about the research projects and share their views on different projects. Please find a visual representation of the event lay out in Illustration 1.
    iv. Researchers had up to 25 minutes to present their projects and receive feedback from each group of visitors. Groups were moved on from each table by way of a signal. A member of PERC communicated when it was time to change tables.

    v. Researchers had prepared their projects in lay summary and three pre-prepared questions in advance with the assistance of their Community Partner co-host who helped to facilitate conversations between researchers and visitors.

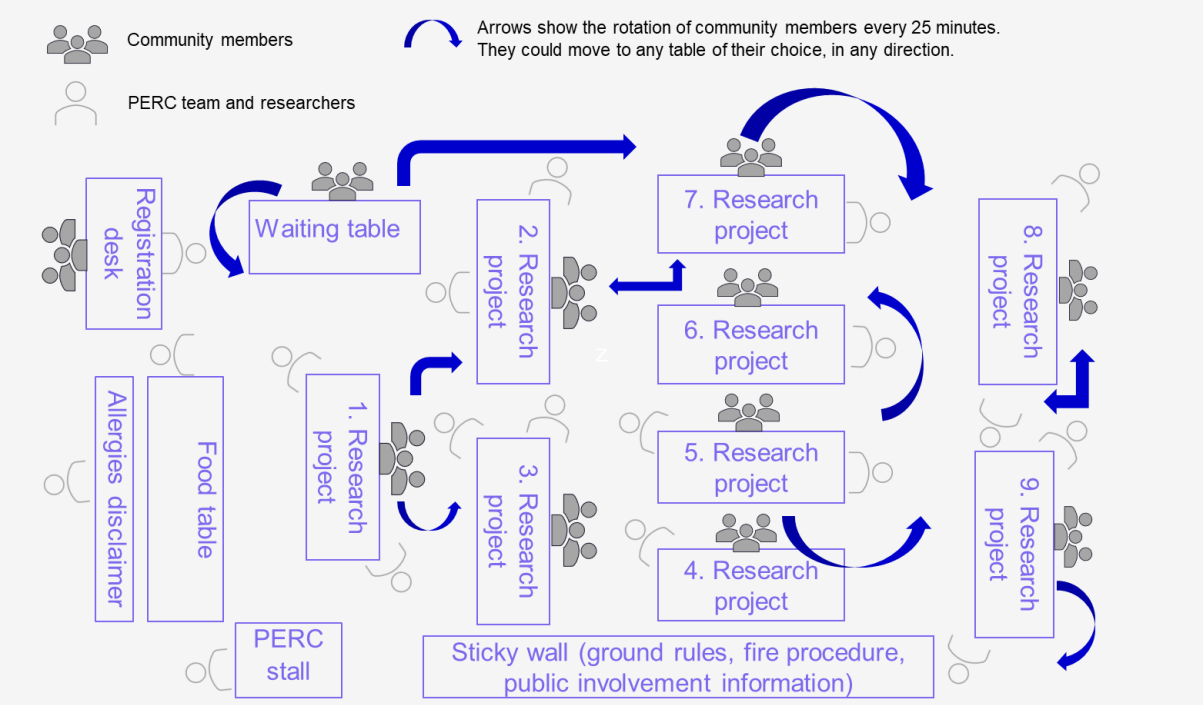


Illustration 1: visual representation of the layout of the event.

7. Roles at the event

1. **Café managers** were designated to:
    a. Answer any questions from staff and visitors
    b. Oversee the event's safety (e.g. making sure community visitors did not touch the hot water urn, as drinks were provided by Welcomers for safety reasons)
    c. Oversee the event's logistics (e.g. indicating when visitors should rotate tables)
2. **Welcomers** were designated to:
    a. Approach people who were entering the venue and give them the research menu (Appendix 1) and instructions of the event
    b. Offer visitors a free tea/coffee
    c. Invite visitors to join a table to discuss a research project of their choice from the menu and take them to the table.
    d. If the table has already started a discussion, ask the visitor to sit at the waiting table until the researcher can start the next discussion.
    e. Give the visitor their hot drink and bring it to them at the table.
3. **Registration desk welcomers** were designated to**:**
    a. Wait at the entrance of the venue at the registration desk and ask visitors to register.
    b. Ask visitors if they minded being photographed. If not, they provided them with a yellow sticker so that the photographer knew to not photograph them.
    c. Direct visitors to a welcomer
    d. When a visitor left, ask them to:

i. Provide their sign-up details if they want to be contacted in the future (the policy notice will be printed at the table)
ii. Provide their sign-up details if they want to be subscribed to PERC mailing list subject to the Imperial College London Privacy Notice
iii. Give visitors the feedback forms, their vouchers (see above 'Agenda, and event overview') and ask them to sign a form confirming they had received the vouchers and acknowledgement of their responsibility to declare the vouchers to HMRC.

4. **Researchers:**
    a. Lead a discussion with visitors starting with introducing themselves
    b. Set the scene around their research project by providing a summary of the project, their public involvement activities, ask if anyone has any questions for clarification and ask the three agreed questions about their research
    c. Encourage everyone around the table to contribute including those less inclined to talk
    d. Summarise the feedback provided by visitors at the end of each discussion
    e. Share with visitors' any opportunities for them to get involved in their research (if appropriate) at the end of each discussion,
5. **Imperial BRC Community Partners:**
    a. Help the researcher to encourage visitors to share their views, by actively listening (e.g. nodding) and sharing their experience (where relevant)
    b. Help to ensure there is time for all visitors to speak
    c. Support the researcher by trying to keep the conversation flowing and to keep visitors on the topic by linking people's ideas to the questions the researcher is asking
    d. Take notes of the discussion.

8. Visitors

Initially, 47 community members had registered to attend the event via Eventbrite, which was available from the 19th of August.

On the day, 25 community members (visitors) attended the Ealing Community Involvement in Research event, including carers and companions. Two non-Imperial researchers also attended the event and joined the tables. There were two walk-ins on the day of the event, but they did not take part in the research discussions. Visitors' demographics are shown in **Appendix 2.**

Feedback

Visitors were asked before leaving to complete a short, printed feedback form. Researchers and Imperial BRC Community Partners were asked to complete an online feedback form after the event.

1. **Visitors feedback**

From the (n=22/25) completed forms, overall **experience of the event was rated as positive by all of them**

- 68% (n=15) rated their experience as ‘excellent'
- 32% (n=7) rated their experience as ‘good’.

Interestingly, **when asked if before today, they had ever provided their comments/views on health research design**:

- 73% (n=16/22) had not previously provided their comments or views on health research design before this event.
- 27% (n=6/22) had previously provided their comments on health research design.

The feedback form also included a free-text box for visitors to **share any further comments about the event**. Overall, their comments were positive.

- Organisation of the event:
  - One visitor commented on the organisation of the event highlighting it as “interactive and well-organised".
  - One visitor highlighted the importance of hosting more events like this in the future, adding “Do more events, more community events”.
- Importance of this event in enabling public involvement in research:
  - “This is a useful, interesting event for public to participate”
  - “Excellent opportunity to talk with researchers...”.
- How their feedback was received:
  - “I felt listened to and it benefited me and the way I view things, widened my perspective”
  - “The researchers were very friendly, and it was nice to get my views heard”.
- Comments about the research topics:
  - Some shared positive feedback about the information provided and the projects presented, with comments such as:
    - “I really enjoyed the information, found it very interesting”
    - “The AI section was really good”
    - “Great variety of future studies...”.
  - One visitor expressed the need for more time and events to be able to speak to more researchers:
    - “More time, events to speak to more researchers, groups. Great event!”

Finally, for consideration in future events, **visitors provided feedback on areas for improvement:**

- Two visitors suggested offering healthier and simpler food options.
- One visitor recommended providing a clearer and more specific venue address.
- One visitor suggested improving the organisation of some sessions.

- Another visitor suggested hosting the event in a different room, as the venue acoustics were loud.

2. Researcher feedback

After the event, the 12 researchers who hosted tables and presented their projects were asked to complete an anonymous online feedback form after the event. Four (n=4/12) researchers completed the form.

Overall, **they described a positive experience**

- 50% (n=2/4) respondents rated the experience at the event as 'excellent'
- 50% (n=2/4) rated the experience as 'good'.

Researchers provided insights into **why they provided the above ratings**

- Overall, they acknowledged the event's organisation, describing it as "well-organised".
- Some highlighted the support provided by the PERC team, with comments such as:
  - "I felt very supported"
  - "Training was great and really well organised".
- They highlighted the high level of engagement during the event, noting:
  - "Everyone very engaged"
  - "Friendly and welcoming atmosphere"
  - "Lots of enthusiasm".
- One researcher commented on the diversity of visitors at their table, stating, "great mix of participants attending my table".

When asked **if participating in the event increased their knowledge of public involvement**:

- 75% (n=3/4) of researchers reported an increase in their knowledge of public involvement. The key learnings they shared are as follows:
  - "Wide range of perspectives, simple concerns which I overlooked such as people's ideas of how data is managed and stored in NHS"
  - "Practical aspects and elements to ensure greater success"
  - "How to quickly and effectively communicate our work helped to practice the "elevator pitch" with members of the public".

When asked **if participating in the event increased their confidence to undertake public involvement in the future:**

- 75% (n=3/4) of researchers reported increased confidence in undertaking public involvement and stated they would be more likely to undertake public involvement in the future.
- One researcher mentioned that, after the event, they would continue with the same level of public involvement as before, adding:
  - "I feel that I have a good amount of knowledge and a high degree of confidence to undertake involvement (and/or I know where to go for

support), so this event in particular didn't contribute further to that – but it was an excellent event".

When asked **how likely they were to recommend participating in the event to their research colleagues**:

- 100%(n=4/4) of researchers expressed that they are very likely to recommend the event to their research colleagues.

Researchers also **suggested areas for improvement**, including:

- Increasing footfall
- Ensuring that every researcher had a public partner to support the facilitation of conversations. Due to a short notice cancellation from one of our Imperial BRC Community Partners, one researcher was left without a facilitator at their table.
- A larger sitting area in the tables
- More time between rotations
- Providing warm food
- Provide an opportunity for attendees who were unable to sit at certain tables to offer informal feedback on these projects

3. Imperial BRC Community Partners Feedback

As previously mentioned, eight Imperial BRC Community Partners each co-hosted a table with the researchers, helping them to facilitate conversations. After the event, they were asked to complete an online feedback form. Three of them completed the form.

Overall, **they described a positive experience**

- 66%(n=2/3) of Community Partners rated the experience as 'good'
- 33% (n=1/3) of Community Partners rated the experience as 'excellent'

Similar to researchers and visitors, Community Partners described insights into **why they provided the above ratings**

- One described the event as "well organised"
- One described the event as "pleasant to help host such an event where the participants are the centre of attention".

When **asked if they felt their role at the event was helpful**

- 66%(n=2/3) of Community Partners responded with 'definitely, yes'. One of them emphasised their contributions in facilitating and supporting conversations, noting:
    - "By encouraging the visitors to speak by asking questions. Also explained to the health professionals the role of the voluntary sector organisation in advocating for the vulnerable patients".

- 33% (n=1/3) of Community Partners responded with 'probably, yes' and elaborated on the importance of their role, stating:
    - "As people can be intimidated in front of researchers, but I am presenting myself as a member of the public as well, so they are not alone".

When asked **if the visitors seemed to understand the projects that the Community Partners were supporting**

- All the Community Partners (n=3/3) responded 'yes'.

When asked **if they felt supported in their role**

- All the Community Partners (n=3/3) responded 'yes'

When asked **if they would be interested in participating in similar events in the future**

- All the Community Partners (n=3/3) expressed interest in participating in similar events in the future.

Community Partners also provided **suggestions for improvement**, primarily focused on increasing attendance.

- One noted: "Well done for organising it, but next time I will help advertise the event as we need to increase attendance".

Reflections and impact

Strengths of the event

Overall, the experience of all visitors who provided feedback was described as a positive one.

1. Event organisation and support

Most attendees highlighted the event's organisation as a key strength, with visitors highlighting its interactive structure and expressing enjoyment of the projects and information presented. Both researchers and Imperial BRC Community Partners felt well-supported by the PERC team throughout the event.

2. Co-design

Accordingly, the approach to this event demonstrated a strong commitment to structured and timely preparation, with a particular emphasis on co-designing every aspect in collaboration with the community and providing training and support for researchers and Imperial BRC Community Partners. This also highlights the importance of the different roles during the event. For instance, Imperial BRC Community Partners emphasised the value of their contribution, noting that their role was helpful in encouraging and supporting visitors during their interactions with researchers.

Events co-designed with the community are intended to be tailored to the needs of those they aim to serve. However, as Saira highlighted, such events are more effective when supported by a team-based approach, as demonstrated in this case.

3. Level of engagement

It was also described that all attendees demonstrated a high level of engagement during the event. Visitors noted that the event facilitated their involvement in research, providing them with opportunities to share feedback on research. Most visitors have not previously provided feedback on health research design, which emphasise the role of such events enabling public involvement in research, specially within communities who have not previously been involved.

4. Feedback collection

Finally, evaluating the event through feedback collection allowed our team to identify its strengths and identify recommendations for future events. Feedback was gathered through various methods, with most community visitors who attended providing input.

Opportunities for improvement and recommendations for future events

1. Finding research projects focused on improving the health of parent carers was challenging. The PERC team was unable to identify any researchers working on this topic. As Saira noted, this may reflect the wider research landscape, highlighting the need for more research dedicated to addressing the health and well-being of parent carers.
2. There was a delay in the delivery of lunch which impacted the agenda so that some people were hungry and prevented a staggered approach to lunch collection.
3. There were also two nonregistered visitors that walked in on the day of the event but were not really interested in participating and left shortly after receiving a cup of coffee. Future events should consider the role and inclusion of walk-in attendees during the co-design process. For example, exploring ways to improve the events logistics to ensure non-registered visitors feel welcomed.
4. A few visitors mentioned that it was difficult to hear their own conversations due to the proximity of other tables and/or the room's acoustics. Some visitors and researchers who were disturbed by this chose to move to an adjacent space with better acoustics. In future events, venue acoustics will be explored to avoid this.
5. There were mixed reviews about the food, but it was identified as an area for improvement. Recommendations included offering a warm meal, and healthier options.
6. Some attendees commented on the event's attendee numbers, suggesting that future events should aim to involve more community members. While the primary aim of this event was not to reach a specific number of attendees but to facilitate public involvement within this community and ensure a positive experience, delays in promoting the event due to the August half-term may

have impacted attendance. To address this, Imperial BRC Community Partners offered to share information about similar events within their communities and a PERC team member suggested choosing a venue with direct access to a busy public street to increase walk-in attendance.

Impact of the event

3.1 Impact on community visitors

For most visitors, the event was their first public involvement activity, highlighting the importance of such events in connecting research and researchers with the communities and promoting public involvement, particularly within communities who have not previously been involved in research.

Efforts to co-design the event and provide community visitors with a positive and meaningful experience, were essential for achieving the event's aims and positively impacting the community. As, community visitors reported their interest in attending similar future events, particularly those held in community-based settings, demonstrating the potential of such events to enable wider community involvement.

3.2 Impact on researchers

Insights from researchers demonstrate the benefit of public involvement in enabling researchers' continuous learning and improving their projects. Key feedback from the public included aspects of the project that researchers had overlooked and ways to communicate their work more effectively.

The researchers increased knowledge and confidence in undertaking public involvement aligns closely with the event's aim and the Imperial BRC PPIEP Strategy aim of building researchers' capacity in this area. However, to better understand the factors contributing to the increase in confidence, future events should include a feedback form that explores the underlying reasons behind the increase d confidence.

Since all researchers would highly recommend similar future events to their research colleagues, this will encourage more researchers to attend and become motivated about public involvement, ultimately helping to build greater capacity for public involvement.

3.3 Impact on Imperial BRC Community Partners

The role of Imperial BRC Community Partners in co-hosting the tables proved to be very valuable, as highlighted by both the Community Partners and the researchers, with some researchers seeking advice from the Community Partners after the event regarding the next steps for the project. For example, among the visitors who consented to be recontacted about a project, researchers consulted the Community Partner who co-hosted the table on who to invite to join a patient advisory group.

This demonstrates the impact of the event in helping Community Partners establish stronger partnership relationships with researchers. Also, this highlights the potential of such events to build public involvement capacity, not only for researchers but also

for Community Partners, who benefited from the training and support provided by the PERC team to develop their roles.

3.4 Impact on research projects

All researchers who attended the event are required to write blogs to highlight the impact of this activity on their projects. These blogs will be posted on the PERC website. Since evaluating the impact of public involvement on a project can take time, we will continue updating this report with new blogs as they are published. To date, two researchers have already shared their blog, detailing the impact of the visitor feedback on their project. You can find it below:

1. Project titled at the event 'How children and families can be followed up after a serious illness' presented by Emma Alexander. Please find her blog here: Having an Impact with Public Involvement in Paediatric Intensive Care Research
2. Project titled at the event 'How both doctor's visits and children's respiratory infections have changed since the COVID-19 pandemic' presented by Kimberley Foley. Please find her blog here: Researchers and community members working together to shape research on respiratory infections in young children

Impact on Implementation of the Imperial BRC's PPIEP Strategy

The event enabled and promoted public involvement within communities that had not previously been involved and who are underrepresented in research. It contributed to the third, fifth and sixth aim of the Imperial BRC Public Involvement, Engagement and Participation in Research Strategy, which are as follows:

- Aim 2: To involve the public in BRC projects and activities and plan this from the outset.
- Aim 3: to engage and involve communities in our population which are underrepresented and under-served in research
- Aim 5: to build capacity and confidence in BRC researchers to enable them to involve the public in research.
- Aim 6: to build capacity and confidence in the public to enable them to get involved in research.

Moreover, it provided the PERC team and readers of this report with valuable insights into the strengths and challenges of the event and opportunities for improvement in future iterations.

Appendix 1

Research menu

EALING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN RESEARCH EVENT

ON THE MENU

THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2024



1. Using artificial intelligence to support doctors in delivering personalised cardiovascular care



2. How both doctor's visits and children's respiratory infections have changed since the COVID-19 pandemic



3. How policies to reduce air pollution have impacted respiratory and birth outcomes



4. Developing a platform to connect people with cardiomyopathy and myocarditis to researchers



5. How children and families can be followed up after a serious illness



6. Using artificial intelligence to personalise the treatment for children with asthma



7. Intervention to improve maternity care for Black, African, Caribbean, and mixed-Black heritage families



8. How patient safety risks arising from language barriers in Paediatric Emergency Departments (PEDs)



9. How outcomes for pregnant women and their babies differ based on their backgrounds

Your voice matters!

Ealing parent & carer Forum — make your voice heard

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Appendix 2

Demographics of visitors

Visitors were asked to voluntarily complete their demographics (or some of them) on the feedback form. These results are presented in the table below.

Characteristics	**n (%)**
Visitors age groups (in years)	
17-25	1 (5%)
26-35	5 (23%)
36-45	2 (10%)
46-56	1 (5%)
56-65	4 (18%)
66 – 75	3 (14%)
76+	2 (10%)
No, thanks	4 (18%)
Ethnicity	
Black British	2 (9%)
White British	7 (32%)
British Pakistani	2 (9%)
White European	1 (5%)
Caribbean	2 (9%)
Black Caribbean	1 (5%)
Mixed other	1 (5%)
Somali	2 (9%)
Asian	1 (5%)
Greek	1 (5%)
No, thanks	2 (9%)
Gender	
Female	17(77%)
Male	4 (18%)

No, thanks	1(5%)
Postcode	
Ealing	18(82%)
Other boroughs	3(14%)
No, thanks	1(4%)