

# PATIENT HACK 2015

Sponsored by the NIHR School for Primary Care Research

## Where is the hack day happening?

The hack day will be held at the St Thomas Centre in Manchester on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2015. The centre is about a 10 minute walk or 5 minute taxi journey from Piccadilly Station. The Centre is run by Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) which we are keen to support by hosting the event at the St Thomas Centre.

## Quotes from last year:

"The pitches enable the Public to 'reach out' and enable the Researchers to 'think outside the box'."

"The buzz that came from all the groups working together around the pitches was great."

"The group was positive and supportive with a lot of great ideas and links for the pitcher to follow up."



## What is a 'Hack Day'?

A Hack Day brings together people from different backgrounds and viewpoints to work on projects in which they all have an interest, with the aim of encouraging new ideas and innovative approaches. Our Patient Hack will bring together researchers and members of the public to translate ideas, pitched by members of the public themselves, into potential research proposals. This is the second Patient Hack Day, building on the experiences of the hack day we ran in April 2014.

## The Challenge

- Members of the public have great ideas for research but can struggle to get these heard by





## How do I make a 'pitch'?

The first step is to register to attend on the survey monkey link (see below) and complete the section "I would like to pitch an idea". We'll ask you to leave your contact details so we can get in touch and talk it through with you. Just having a rough idea is fine; you don't need to have worked out the details as that's what the Hack Day is for! There will be a maximum of 6 pitches. If we have more than 6 volunteers, preference will be given firstly to ideas that match the three themes, and then allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

If you are selected as a pitcher you will be assigned a **Patient Hack Buddy**. This will be a PPI contributor (ie. A carer, service user or member of the public rather than a researcher) who will help you think about your pitch and help prepare you for the day. (Cont on next page)

researchers

- There are limited opportunities for researchers and members of the public to design research projects together
- Projects are often designed before the public are asked for their views on what should be researched and how

We know there a lot of good ideas out there. The aim of the Hack Day is to see if we can speed up the process of taking these ideas to researchers and other members of the public and getting them worked up into proposals!

This year, we are particularly asking for topics on three specific themes. These are themes of research that we have expertise in here in Manchester and so topics that fall under these themes will have a better chance of being taken forward locally. Having a themed event also means we can be sure that the researchers attending on the day have the right kind of expertise to help translate ideas into proposals. These themes are:

**Mental health:** Ideas related to the experience of different mental health problems, ways of delivering treatments, better understanding the needs of people with mental health problems etc.

**Patient safety:** Ideas related to problems that can impact on patient safety, for example understanding medications, problems not being diagnosed, different services not communicating properly, risks associated with treatments.

**Technology and health:** Ideas related to understanding how technology (mobile phones, apps, websites, social media, information systems) can impact on the way we provide treatments, how using technology could improve the care we provide, or the barriers/problems around technology and health.

## What happens afterwards?

We hope that some of the ideas will be taken forward, with researcher support, to be turned into complete research proposals and submitted for funding, but we can't guarantee this. However the pitcher will be able to take their completed project proposal to approach other researchers if they want to. Research can move quite slowly and there is no guarantee that if a proposal

## How do I make a pitch? Continued.

Your Buddy will be with you throughout the group session on the Hack day itself to offer support.

On the day we will also provide research proposal templates for each group to complete to help you work up your idea together. Each group will be assigned a facilitator, who will also be a PPI contributor (not a researcher), who will support the group discussions and help the group complete the proposal template.

### Lessons Learned

Last year 85% of participants said they thought the Hack Day format was effective, and 94% would attend again, but we also learned some lessons about how to make the day better. These include:

- Having a dedicated PPI facilitator in each group.
- Asking for pitches around specific themes that local groups have expertise in and may be able to help take forward.
- Encouraging other organisations, such as charities, to attend as well.

is submitted that it will be successful and be funded. The Hack Day is about providing a space for the pitcher and the team – both researchers and members of the public – to explore the idea and think about how it can be translated into a research proposal, to help kickstart the first step of the research process.

If the idea is adopted by one of the University research groups, then the research group must agree:

1. That the original pitcher is automatically a member of the project steering committee or actively involved in some other way as they wish
2. That the research must follow best practice guidance for involving patients and members of the public in research

## I'm interested but don't have an idea to pitch...

That's fine! We need people who are happy to listen to the pitches and work in groups to help turn these into proposals. Our motto is that Everyone is an Expert – whatever your background or experience, you can bring something to the discussion, even if you're just providing a sounding board or expressing your enthusiasm for the idea!

## How can I take part?

Please register at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56LLKSH>

Places are limited to 30, on a first-come first served basis.

## Expenses

All members of the public who attend the hack will receive **£40**. We can also reimburse standard fare travel costs up to a limit of £30. If you have exceptional circumstances that would require additional funds (for example if you need costs to cover caring responsibilities) – please contact Claire or Sarah to discuss it. Please be aware we can't guarantee this however due to budget restrictions.

***Lastly...come along and have fun!***

**Last year everyone agreed that the Patient Hack was a fun and novel event, and we hope to do even better this year, so please come along and help us make it another great day!**

**Contacts**

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