Our Engagement Stories
I believe universities exist for the public good. I am passionately committed to public engagement partly because I feel we are obliged to do this in our role as a publicly funded institution but more importantly because we want to share our passion, research and knowledge. Equally we gain enormously from these interactions with the public as it helps us do better and more meaningful research and be better teachers.

Engagement includes every aspect of a university’s work; our teaching, our research, our wider contribution to society and the national economy and our research which aims to solve the world’s most pressing problems. We can only do this effectively if we are talking with and learning from the public.

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell
President and Vice-Chancellor

Source: The Engaged University, A Manifesto for Public Engagement
At Manchester, public engagement means the many ways we share ideas and research; inspire discussion, debate and creativity; and involve the public with our work. Our commitment to engagement is supported by our unique strategic goal of social responsibility and it is embedded in our research and teaching practices.

We have a long history of public engagement and, in 2008, we led one of the first UK Beacons for Public Engagement. As a signatory of the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) Manifesto for Public Engagement, we are committed to enabling high quality meaningful engagement and we were thrilled to be awarded a Gold Engage Watermark in 2018. This publication shares the legacy of the Beacon and how we’ve developed our engagement strategy and activity.

We want to thank our staff, students, alumni and community partners who are a vital force behind our engagement work. From recognisable names such as Professors Danielle George, Brian Cox, Phil Manning, Matthew Cobb, Dan Davis, Jeanette Winterson, Michael Wood and David Olusoga to activities led by our students and staff. Our engagement strength is evident in our diverse collaborations and approaches. From patient involvement to applied student work; community partnerships to citizen science; writers, radio and TV presenters to cultural attractions; and widening participation to policy engagement.

It is impossible to share all of our public engagement stories in a publication. We’ve chosen some highlights of our journey to date and we’d encourage you to explore more of our stories at www.manchester.ac.uk/engagement.

Communicating our engagement stories isn’t an end in itself; we hope the stories inspire new ideas and partnerships. And as we move forward, our commitment to high quality engagement is at the forefront of our approach to thinking about what more we can we do and how to best support our staff, students and communities to undertake outstanding engagement.

Professor Sheena Cruickshank
Academic Lead for Public Engagement
Public engagement describes the myriad of ways in which the activity and benefits of higher education and research can be shared with the public. Engagement is by definition a two-way process, involving interaction and listening, with the goal of generating mutual benefit.

National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement
Our cultural attractions

Our cultural attractions provide a universe of amazing ideas and inspiring public spaces that are open to our local and international communities. Whether you want to take in a performance, delve deep into our past, view works of art or learn about the night sky, we’ve got something that will entertain, inform and engage.

Manchester Museum
From our extensive Egyptology collection to the home of our live reptiles and amphibians in our Vivarium, our Museum brings together the history of the ancient worlds of Egypt, Greece and Rome with the magnificent natural living worlds. Our exciting new £13m project, hello future, is transforming and developing Manchester Museum to become more inclusive, imaginative and relevant to the diverse communities we serve.

The Whitworth
Making art useful since 1889, our award-winning gallery is home to more than 55,000 works of art, ranging from textiles to some of the most famous British watercolours. Following a £15m transformation project, the Gallery is home to an engaging 21st century space surrounded by parkland. We offer a place that is historic and contemporary, academic and playful, so together with our communities we create new approaches to making art and nature something that is for everyone.

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre
Home to the world famous, 76 metre Lovell Telescope, our Space, Star and Planet pavilions offer you the chance to explore all aspects of the cosmos. We also welcome thousands of music lovers each year to our award winning bluedot festival. The First Light Project is our exciting new £20m development to transform Jodrell Bank into a world-class heritage destination with an unrivalled international status as a site of scientific, cultural and historical importance.

The John Rylands Library
Created more than 100 years ago as a gift to Manchester and its people, our spectacular Grade I-listed, neogothic library in the City is home to one of the world’s richest and most unique collections of books, with 250,000 printed volumes, and more than a million manuscripts and archival items: maps, works of art and objects. We are a place of wonder and a glorious, unrepentant celebration of imagination and learning.

Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama
We offer a varied programme of arts events and performances including concerts, theatre productions, literature and spoken word events that aim to provide memorable and inspirational experiences that educate, stimulate and engage.

The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre
Hosted in Manchester’s Central Library, we are an open access library specialising in the study of race, ethnicity and migration. We use our resources to engage communities with the knowledge they need to promote anti-racism and celebrate cultures.

The Museum of Medicine and Health
Spanning more than 300 years, our collection of artefacts is one of the most extensive collections of medical instruments and equipment in England. We use our resources to place science in a social and historical context and contribute to exhibitions, research projects and events.

@Whitworthart
www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk
@WhitworthArt

@McrMuseum
www.museum.manchester.ac.uk

@McrMuseum
www.museum.manchester.ac.uk

@Jodrellbank
www.jodrellbank.net

@TheJohnRylands
www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands

@ManMedMuseum
www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/museum

@McrMuseum
www.museum.manchester.ac.uk

@McrMuseum
www.museum.manchester.ac.uk
We want to closely involve the public in our work and give those with no or little previous engagement with universities a chance to find out more and closely interact with our academics. This is a chance for us to learn from people across the Manchester area, to build bridges, make universities integral to the wider community and seek opportunities to make an impact through engagement.

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, President and Vice-Chancellor

Our journey

Building on a strong history of engaging the public in our work, we share our journey from 2008, taking the opportunity to further embed a culture of high quality public engagement.

2008
- Manchester becomes a Beacon for Public Engagement
- Awarded £1.2m
- Beacon Labs for strategic development
- Beacon seed funding for new practice projects

2009
- Signatory to the Manifesto for Public Engagement
- New University strategy published with Goal 3 Social Responsibility
- First Science Spectacular for Manchester Science Festival
- First BBC Stargazing Live programme, hosted by Jodrell Bank
- Beacon faculty seed and community funding for culture change projects

2010
- Engagement case studies included in operational reporting
- Awarded RCUK funding for School-University Partnership Initiative (SUPI)

2011
- First Music and Science Festival at Jodrell Bank, later to become bluedot

2012
- New Social Responsibility Framework launched

2013
- Beacon project ends
- Office for Social Responsibility established with first Associate Vice-President and first Director
- Policy@Manchester established
- Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell appointed Co-Chair, Council for Science and Technology

Royal Television Society’s Huw Wheldon Memorial Lecture with Professor Brian Cox

Beacon Gathering to share stories and good practice

Development of national Vitae training resources: Engaging Researcher

First Science Spectacular for Manchester Science Festival

First BBC Stargazing Live programme, hosted by Jodrell Bank

Beacon faculty seed and community funding for culture change projects
We are delighted to be able to award The University of Manchester a Gold Engage Watermark. The University’s commitment to ‘making a difference’ through its public engagement is an example to all – and we hope they will inspire others to do the same.

Paul Manners, Director, National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement

Launch of new University strategy: Our Future

In my new position at the Royal Society, I want to help change the perception of science. I want to see our great cultural and scientific institutions – the universities, the learned societies, museums, schools, the BBC – work together to raise the cultural and political profile of science, research and education.

Professor Brian Cox, Royal Society Professor for Public Engagement in Science
Working with young people

The Great Science Share for Schools

Developed in 2016 by Dr Lynne Bianchi and led by the Science & Engineering Education Research and Innovation Hub, the Great Science Share for Schools is a fast growing national campaign designed to engage young people in science and engineering. The campaign culminates each year in a day of events taking place across the UK and beyond.

The initiative adopts a child-centred approach, encouraging primary and Key Stage 3 pupils to design and share their own scientific questions and investigations with new audiences. Events are organised in schools, universities, museums and cultural settings. Young people demonstrate mastery of their science learning, using their own methods and theories to involve others in short scientific investigations based on questions that matter to them. In 4 years, over 100,000 young people have taken part with social media increasing the visibility of the events far and wide.

The Great Science Share for Schools has forged new collaborations with Universities, Local Authorities, Hospital Schools, STEM educators and business groups to encourage sharing across the sector. But what’s really exciting about this initiative is that the scientific questions and investigations are driven by the curiosity and interests of young people: it empowers them to learn, communicate and share science and engineering in ways that they find most fascinating and inspiring for themselves and their peers.

"It just feels good to hear a child’s voice explaining because you can get more understanding – they don’t use complicated words!

Pupil, St Charles’ Primary School, Salford"

www.greatscienceshare.org
@GreatSciShare
@GreatSciShare4Schools
Whitworth Young Contemporaries

The Whitworth Young Contemporaries is a programme developed by and for young people aged 11-24 years based at the Whitworth.

A core group of twenty 16-24 year olds from diverse backgrounds meet weekly to plan and deliver a programme of workshops and creative events with a social conscience. From gallery takeovers to creative play and panel discussions, their aim is to make a difference by connecting art, ideas and communities. As well as being a place to socialise, it’s a platform to develop life skills and showcase creativity and ideas.

In 2016, the Whitworth Young Contemporaries worked with two emerging artists to host an ambitious WARP Festival of over 100 performances, workshops and activities over a weekend which attracted 10,000 people, with 6,000 young people attending the Saturday events alone. Some Whitworth Young Contemporaries members used the experience in their applications to employment or colleges.

The 11-16 year-old Whitworth Young Contemporaries attend a weekly drop-in After School Club, which sets young people a making challenge or provides a place for them to do their own imaginative projects.

Manchester Fly Facility: droso4schools

Fruit fly research covers many areas of biomedical science providing opportunities to teach biology in engaging ways, to link to contemporary research, and to create memorable micro-experiments that are affordable and feasible in schools.

The droso4schools initiative, driven by Sanjai Patel and Professor Andreas Prokop at the Manchester Fly Facility, promotes the use of the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* for the teaching of curriculum-relevant content in school biology lessons. Through long-term collaboration with teachers and university student placements in schools, we’ve developed 7 biology lessons with support materials and educational films. All resources are free to download and explained and supported through our droso4schools website.

Currently, the AQA examination board is considering ways to bring flies into UK examinations and teachers and researchers from across the world are using the resources. The educational films are available in Spanish, Indonesian and Arabic and plans are underway to establish droso4schools in Indonesia, Croatia and Nigeria. Our resources are complemented with an active programme of school visits and teacher training, which in turn provide new ideas for the droso4schools initiative.

My pupils got to experience hands on what it’s like to ‘be a scientist’ and the opportunity to work with living organisms and performing their own ‘mini-experiments’, was extremely engaging for them. They loved seeing the bigger picture as to how laboratory research can impact human quality of life. It linked brilliantly with practical-based questions in the new GCSE specification, and I really think it inspired pupils to take a Science A Level.

Teacher, Southport

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Fly genetics training package
>30,000 downloads

Reported use of resources in 20 nations across 6 continents

Educational films with ~30K views translated into Spanish, Arabic and Indonesian

www.flyfacility.manchester.ac.uk
@ManFlyFacility
Creative experiments

Robot Orchestra

Inspiring the next generation of engineers, the Robot Orchestra, led by Professor Danielle George, enables young people to learn computer coding and recycle things to make robot instruments, which are linked together by a robotic conductor to play music.

The Orchestra was originally a flagship project to celebrate Manchester being the European City of Science in 2016. A Hack Day was held with 200 primary school children from 23 local schools and partner organisations such as Apple, The Hive and Noisy Toys who led workshops to build music-making robots. Around 20 robots were created and Siemens built a special robot conductor to keep the other robots to time. University music students visited schools to teach children how to compose music for the Robot Orchestra to play. The Orchestra then performed with musicians from the Hallé Orchestra, a ‘Brighter Sound’ soul band and hip hop singer, and a robotic Ed Sheeran to produce free shows in the local community and at key venues across Manchester.

The Robot Orchestra then went on tour with Danielle’s ‘Hack Your Home’ show and broadened its audience when it was featured in a BBC iPlayer documentary ‘Can a Robot Replace Ed Sheeran?’ which had 2,000 views in its first month and won the Association of International Broadcasting Award 2017 in the Children’s and Youth category. The Orchestra’s media profile has continued to grow with behind the scenes footage appearing on the BBC Make it Digital website, and it featured in the relaunch of the BBC Microbit music video ‘What if ... Robots Replaced Teachers?’ But this crowd-sourcing project doesn’t stop there, as schools can now make their own robot instruments with a Robot Orchestra making kit.

We are effectively trying to deliver an engineering project via crowd-sourcing. I want to show how everyone can discover the secret engineer inside themselves - and build an amazing machine from their imagination. A new musical engineering revolution has begun!

Professor Danielle George
Facing Out

Living with a facial disfigurement can be incredibly socially isolating. Facing Out is a two-year project that explores the impact of acquired facial disfigurement from head and neck cancers and their treatments.

With Arts Council England/National Lottery, the Whitworth, Manchester Science Festival and faculty funding, this project involved Dr Anne-Marie Martindale, a social anthropologist, who researches the socio-cultural importance of faces and lived experience of facial disfigurement, incorporating the portrayal of appearance in popular culture and appearance-related discrimination. A two-day event, including a presentation of this research, was held to bring people with facial cancer together and explore how the arts can help the healing process.

Renowned sculptor Eleanor Crook introduced participants to the anatomy of the face through creating wax sculptures of facial musculature, and people with facial cancer came together with doctors, specialists, former patients, medical students and artists for discussions on living with an altered appearance, and how engaging in art and culture can help people heal following an illness.

This event formed part of wider ‘arts for health’ project by artist Lucy Burscough. Working in residence at Maggie’s Manchester, she created portraits of people who have experienced facial cancers and reconstructive surgery to promote subjects’ acceptance of the altered appearance and boost a beleaguered sense of self. The resulting portraits were exhibited at the Whitworth, with an accompanying programme of creative workshops, talks and tours.

Everyday Austerity

At the height of the public spending cuts, the Everyday Austerity research project looked at the impact the austerity policies were having on everyday life for families and communities in Greater Manchester.

Dr Sarah Marie Hall spent two years working with six families in Manchester gathering first-hand personal stories to better understand the personal impacts of austerity on everyday family life to inform policy and ultimately improve livelihoods. She also advised, trained and empowered groups and communities to tackle the resulting social injustices.

Sarah’s findings were presented in a touring exhibition that turned these peoples’ stories into a series of drawings, photographs, audio excerpts and objects to ‘lift the lid’ on austerity and bring these experiences of everyday austerity to life. Several thousand people have viewed the exhibition as it has travelled round venues in Greater Manchester. A zine was also produced, illustrated by Claire Springer, and hard copies circulated widely.

The Everyday Austerity research project has influenced a range of policy stakeholders and decision-makers, including the Women’s Budget Group International Network which debates and raises awareness of gender and economic policy to influence government, and has informed Manchester City Council’s Family Poverty Strategy.

"This made me feel much more connected to the people around me and it made things feel real instead of something separate than me. I feel like I know these people and I want to learn more about them."

Exhibition visitor

www.everydayausterity.wordpress.com
Festivals

bluedot

Each year, Jodrell Bank plays host to an award-winning four-day festival of discovery that invites visitors to explore a stellar programme of music, science and cosmic culture beneath the iconic Lovell Telescope. Combining music, live science experiments, expert talks and immersive artworks, the event inspires and entertains over 15,000 festival-goers each day. bluedot provides a unique place to highlight the fragility of planet Earth, to celebrate science and the exploration of the universe, and to explore the frontiers of human advancement through science, culture, art and technology.

@bluedotfestival

Community Festival

Each year we throw open our doors for our local friends and neighbours to discover the variety of work we do here at the University. This free day is jam-packed with fun activities for all the family, including interactive demonstrations, musical and drama performances, and behind the scenes tours. Our Community Festival provides an inviting, informal space for visitors to meet our staff and students and for us to take part in conversations that connect and inspire.

@SocialResponUoM
Manchester Histories Festival

The Manchester Histories Festival celebrates Greater Manchester’s histories over five days of events, performances, and activities. It is hosted by Manchester Histories, a charity that works collaboratively all year round with people, organisations and partners such as the University, to reveal, share and celebrate Greater Manchester’s diverse histories and heritage. The Festival raises awareness of incredible stories that matter to people including work that explores memories, everyday histories and narratives of change, and commemorates important episodes in the history of Greater Manchester.

ScienceX

This free, interactive festival of exploration and experiments is a great chance to discover the fun behind science and engineering. ScienceX is hosted annually over a weekend at intu Trafford Centre, showing that you can explore and experience science everywhere! From robots, and racing cars, to flight simulators and future materials, this hands-on event has something for everyone – from the very young to the young at heart.

European City of Science

The designation of European City of Science to Manchester in 2016 was a first for the UK and the University played a big part in the celebrations. It gave us a unique opportunity to celebrate innovation in the region, to foster global partnerships, and to inspire the next Turing, Dalton, Rutherford or Geim. The city was brought alive with a week of free activities to encourage people to explore how science connects to their lives.

Manchester Science Festival

Since 2007, Manchester Science Festival has been a place for innovative, surprising and meaningful experiences, where people of all ages can ignite their curiosity in science. The University is a key partner in this annual programme of events. From interactive family fun to citizen science projects and immersive performance pieces, we have welcomed thousands of visitors from across Greater Manchester and beyond.

City of Literature

In 2017, Manchester joined UNESCO’s global creative cities network as a City of Literature. The University is part of a consortium involving Manchester City Council, Manchester Metropolitan University, the Manchester Literature Festival as well as writers, publishers and literary organisations. A programme of cultural events and community projects will celebrate diverse voices, share stories, and nurture creative talent to change lives locally and across the world.
Co-produced research

Working in Partnership: Older People as Co-Researchers

By 2030, two-thirds of the world’s population will reside in cities, with at least one-quarter aged 60 and over. The World Health Organisation’s Age-Friendly Cities programme emphasises the need to develop supportive environments for older citizens. This engagement project aimed to identify the issues older residents and community stakeholders view as important in developing the age-friendliness of their neighbourhood and so improve the quality of life in low-income communities.

In partnership with Manchester City Council and local community organisations, people aged between 58 and 74 in Greater Manchester were recruited and trained as co-researchers. They were instrumental in all phases of the research process and trained in research techniques to enable them to play a major role in designing, implementing, analysing, and disseminating the research.

Dr Tine Buffel worked alongside eighteen co-researchers who were each experiencing isolation, poverty and/or health problems. They interviewed 68 people, 60 and over across three neighbourhoods in Manchester about their everyday lives and concerns. Throughout the project the co-researchers along with participants took part in a range of public engagement activities – from coffee mornings to formal steering groups and social gatherings out in the neighbourhoods.

What attracted me to this project was that I still have a lot to give. I wanted to see what other people of a similar age wanted and how we could shape future thinking around ageing cities.

Co-researcher, 71

The project led to tangible outcomes, including the return of a much-loved local bus service, and was supported by Manchester City Council in its efforts to promote age-friendly communities. The co-researchers produced a guide to the work they did and the benefits of participation. The project won the Working in Partnership category in the NCCPE’s 2016 Engage Competition, and the co-researchers continue to be active in applying for funding and seeking further age-friendly developments.
The Lived Experience of Climate Change: A Story of One Piece of Land in Dhaka

This innovative project aimed to examine the everyday realities and impact of climate change on the lives of slum dwellers in Dhaka, Bangladesh. After talking to over 600 people living in a slum, Dr Joanne Jordan set out to communicate her findings to a diverse audience in an accessible way, challenging pre-existing notions of how ordinary people experience and deal with climate change.

Joanne teamed up with Theatre and Performance Studies colleagues at the University of Dhaka to explore the research findings through a traditional folk performance combining melody, drama, pictures and dancing, known as a Pot Gan. The script was based on direct testimony of the people engaged though the research.

The Pot Gan was performed in the slum where the research was conducted and at the 10th International Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change. There was also a performance at the British Council in Dhaka where researchers, practitioners and policy makers were encouraged to reflect on the day-to-day realities of the urban poor living with climate change.

To bring the stories from the Dhaka slum dwellers to a larger international audience, the performances were filmed to produce a documentary. This premiered at Manchester Museum’s Climate Control exhibition and since going online the film has been viewed over 100,000 times.

#BritainBreathing

Approximately one in four people suffer from seasonal allergies and this incidence is on the increase. The causes of the increase are not known and there is a lack of quality symptom data that hampers further understanding.

#BritainBreathing was co-developed with allergy sufferers as the first nationwide citizen science project aiming to track symptoms and location to better understand what factors affect this and why seasonal allergies are on the rise. The data is being used to build a clearer picture of the pattern and frequency of allergy incidence across the UK and is being shared with other researchers across the UK for related projects.

The project is a partnership between the Royal Society of Biology, the British Society for Immunology, cross-disciplinary scientists at The University of Manchester, and allergy sufferers from across the UK. The public are involved in the whole research process and were instrumental in the design of the app and advising on how to build ways to keep people engaged throughout the project.

#BritainBreathing has a free-to-use smartphone app that allows the public to record their allergy symptoms in a simple and straightforward way and use it to help manage their own symptoms. The app was released in 2016 and the findings from the initial study validating the scientific approach were published in 2017. The data collection is ongoing and updates on findings are regularly posted on the project website and twitter feed. This citizen science project is set to go international with a foray into Brazil, meaning even more of us can sneeze for science.

My daughter, Hannah, aged 10 asked me to let you know how much she enjoyed the Cheltenham Science Festival and visiting your stand on Saturday. Hannah’s Mum suffers badly from hay fever so the experience gave her a better understanding of why Mum is not her normal self, at this time of year.”

Festival visitor
Collaborative partnerships

Our Migration Story: The Making of Britain

The multi-award winning Our Migration Story represents the culmination of a decade of innovative interdisciplinary collaboration between Professors Claire Alexander, Joya Chatterji from Cambridge and The Runnymede Trust. It has taken original research into schools to tell untold stories of the generations of migrants who came to and shaped the British Isles and to trace the complex threads of their journeys, arrivals, encounters and experiences that weave British history and identity across nearly 2,000 years.

The resulting website aims to inspire young people and teachers to engage with family and community history as a way of understanding the historical roots of contemporary multicultural Britain. The team partnered with over 80 historians, national and local museums and archives, schools and educationalists to create a resource to accompany new GCSE modules around ‘Migration to Britain’. The website brings together original research and resources such as images, quotations, newspaper clippings, parliamentary reports, videos, poems and extracts from novels. It functions as an online textbook written by academic experts and as a knowledge hub through which further resources can be discovered such as lesson plans and classroom activities for teachers.

Since its launch in 2016, the website has received over 140,000 visitors and has had significant national TV, radio and press interest. It has also been used by a wide range of national organisations, including third sector groups, museums and archives, teachers’ unions, teachers and Historical Associations.

Our Migration Story represents a unique collaboration to transform the curriculum and retell the story of Britain, an endeavour recognised in the 2019 Guardian University Awards (Research Impact).

This project brought together, in a ground-breaking way, academic historians and schools with a site that enables rigorous study of an issue of crucial importance at a time crying out for understanding based on evidence.

Martin Spafford, Schools History Project

Emigration of the Huguenots (1566) Jan Antoon Neuhuys

142k website hits (2016) 
over 112,000 users 
with 53% (60,000) from the UK, and 47% (52,000) from across the world

www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk

#ourmigrationstory
#DataSavesLives

Can data really save lives? Connected Health Cities and The Farr Institute work with patients and members of the public across the UK to raise awareness of sharing and re-using patient data in medical research and to understand the questions people have about this. The ambition is to show how under-used patient data can become meaningful information, providing new insights into the way that patients use and access services and helping to create a more joined-up, responsive health system, benefitting us all.

The #datasaveslives public engagement campaign, led by Dr Mary Tully, highlights the positive ways that patient data is securely re-used to improve health services. But perhaps more crucially it looks to reflect public values, interests and concerns to ensure there is public trust in health research and technology development. The campaign asks challenging but key questions: what is health data and how is it used; what do people think about using health data; and how do we encourage two-way conversations about using health data?

#datasaveslives has developed into a range of public engagement activities in schools, festivals, science fairs and hospitals, as well as citizen juries. It has been used to create a short animated film which explains how UK universities are using patient data to improve health and care, and the measures they must undertake to ensure that patient data remains safe and protected. And a number of important health organisations such as the Wellcome Trust, NHS Digital, and the World Health Organisation have signed up and added their support to the campaign.

3,500+ people engaged with the Twitter #DSL campaign

3,761 views of the #DSL animation

PRIMER

Primary care is often someone’s first point of contact with the NHS, and it covers GP practices, dental practices, community pharmacies and high street opticians. In 2008, PRIMER, the first public involvement group to focus on primary care, was set up at the University with a group of patients, carers, service users and public members. It marked an important step in forging meaningful research partnerships with people who are experts through their experience.

PRIMER members have a wide range of backgrounds, knowledge and ideas, but all have an interest in health research and in getting involved. They work closely with researchers to develop their understanding of what people want and need from primary care. They help ensure that research is relevant to people’s health and can make a difference to everyone’s lives.

Over the last ten years, in collaboration with researchers from the Centre for Primary Care, PRIMER have developed a suite of resources, guides, and workshops for researchers and for members of the public who want to get involved in primary care research. They have also influenced the national agenda for public and patient involvement and are informing University policy, practice and support for public contributors, helping us to make a positive impact on healthcare in Greater Manchester and wider society.

PRIMER has had an influence on the research I do and on me as researcher; perhaps most importantly it has made me question what I thought I knew.

Dr Sarah Knowles

I feel the researchers that we collaborate with really take on board our ideas and suggestions, leading to research that’s relevant and helpful to patients and carers. It’s great to know that we are making a difference.

Carole Bennett, PRiMER member
Community engagement

NHS at 70: The Story of Our Lives

Over 70 years ago the NHS was created to provide free and universal access to healthcare. The lived experiences of workers, patients, volunteers and the public encapsulate a unique part of British history. The NHS’s political and policy history has been well studied by historians but little is known about the human stories of its patients and workers. NHS at 70: The Story of Our Lives is the first shared social history project of the NHS.

Led by Dr Stephanie Snow and working with organisations such as Age UK, the Mental Health Foundation, and NHS England, this project trains volunteers from a range of ages and backgrounds to gather stories from NHS patients and workers as well as politicians and the wider public. Many of the Health Service’s first patients and workers are now in their 80s and 90s, and the 70th anniversary of the NHS in 2018 presented one of the last opportunities to record their stories.

160 people, young and old and from all walks of life, are being trained to gather stories and artefacts and 70 young people aged 14-25 are acting as community reporters, filming stories in their local area. These testimonies, from everyday users and workers, to policymakers, MPs and trade union officials, will contribute to a multimedia, publicly accessible record, filling existing gaps in its history, and recording the personal stories that make the service so unique. Using a web site, people will be able to submit their stories by uploading recordings, photographs and documents. The project is also creating a touring exhibition, a programme of events and a feature film.

I feel in this role more appreciated than I have ever felt in any part of my career. It feels like we are producing an important social history resource and who knows how important that will be in the future.

Project volunteer
Multilingual Manchester

In Manchester, more than 200 languages are spoken and more than 50 languages appear on signs in public spaces. Multilingual Manchester, a research, learning and engagement initiative led by Professor Yaron Matras, promotes awareness of language diversity both on campus and in the city-region.

Using a model of civic university engagement, it creates a setting in which students and staff contribute to and support the work of local stakeholders such as the NHS and Manchester City Council by using engagement to trial research ideas and gain research insights.

Recent activities include setting up a Supplementary School Support Platform bringing together representatives from over a dozen community-run weekend schools that teach community languages to share good practice; providing teacher training sessions; supporting public events; and running curriculum enrichment sessions delivered by staff and students in collaboration with the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology.

Multilingual Manchester has also shaped the city’s public narrative on languages and has drafted a concept for a City Language Strategy - this will be the first language strategy adopted by a major European city.

Our approach to language highlights its value for everyday activities in the context of local communities. We have developed a city narrative that sees languages as a way of ensuring access to services, as the foundation of cultural heritage, and as a key resource of skills; it emphasises that everyone benefits from embracing and harnessing language diversity.

Professor Yaron Matras

Action on Antibiotic Drug Resistance

Antibiotic drug resistance needs to be everyone’s concern because it’s on target to kill more than ten million people a year worldwide by 2050. Drs Roger Harrison and David Allison have led a series of public engagement initiatives to raise awareness and understanding of this global issue, and importantly inspire action.

It began in 2016 with antimicrobial resistance workshops in high schools, closely followed by Beat the Bugs, an educational programme developed for primary schools and local families. From this, a host of interactive activities have been created to help spread the word at festivals and community days.

Expanding the team and collaborating with other universities and our Students’ Union provided opportunities for training up local people to teach others about antibiotic resistance and take part in larger scale events, including a campaign to support World Antibiotic Awareness Week. This work was recognised in 2017 with a number of national Antibiotic Guardian Awards.

Current work is helping to ensure all healthcare undergraduates develop capability and competencies in antibiotic stewardship. The work has now moved beyond Manchester, with the formation of the International Students’ Partnership for Antibiotic Resistance Education (ISPARE), which has helped hundreds of children in Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania learn about good and bad bugs and the appropriate use of antibiotics. This wider relationship has forged the multi-organisational international partnership – Collaboration for Antibiotic Resistance Education and Stewardship (CARES) – which is exactly what we do: caring to help ensure that antibiotics will work for someone when they really need them.
Our practice

Here’s some of our successes – with purpose, people and learning sitting at the heart of our public engagement practice...

**RECOGNITION AND AWARDS**

- **7 staff recognised with Queens Honours Awards**
  - for service to science and to arts
  - **2008-2018**

- **14 researchers**
  - awarded external recognition for outstanding contribution to public engagement by learned societies including

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

- **Making a Difference Awards: 46% of all entries have been for public engagement**

- **2 recipients of The Royal Society**
  - Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture
  - **2012 and 2018**

**EVENTS**

- **1.3 million**
  - people visited our Cultural Attractions
  - **2018**

- **1.5 million**
  - visits to the **Children’s University of Manchester website**
  - **2016-17**

- **60,576 attendees**
  - at free university public lectures
  - **2016/17**

- **100k+**
  - school pupils participated in *The Great Science Share for Schools*
  - **since 2016**

- **25k**
  - interactions between 180 staff and students at *ScienceX* in the intu Trafford Centre
  - **2019**

- **bluedot at Jodrell Bank**
  - **2018**

**SCIENCEX**

- **18k festival goers**
  - music act
  - **147 research teams**
  - **45 art installations**
  - **43 science talks**
  - **22 panel discussions**
  - **3 science marketplaces**

Figures representative of Manchester Beacon and internal records from The University of Manchester, 2008 – 2019.
800+ researchers and public contributors participated in training activities over the past 12 months.

17 distinct public and policy engagement courses run each year.

37 engagement@manchester best practice sessions since 2012.

1,644 patients and public shaped our medical research and teaching since 2012.

The University is the biggest single organisational provider of STEM Ambassadors in Greater Manchester.

45% of our REF 2014 Impact Case Studies featured some reference to public or policy engagement.

161 students recruited as science buskers since 2013.

Our annual commitment to public engagement £7.9m 2018.

22 Beacon projects funded for culture change 2009-2011.

Wellcome ISSF Public Engagement: 53 projects funded to the value of £140,874 since 2012.

Arts and Science Collaborations: 6 community and 9 academic projects funded 2014-2016.

972 student volunteers working with 375 volunteer and community sector organisations 2017-2018.

6448 visitors with 50% from our local communities attended our Community Festival since 2017.

1000+ staff and alumni volunteered as School Governors since 2011.
The success of our Gold Watermark has given us a moment to pause and reflect on our engagement achievements and to acknowledge the incredible work of our staff, students and community partners. But our engagement story doesn’t end there. As we enter into a new decade, we are looking to take up the challenge of playing a leading role as a civic university, as well as addressing key national and international agendas, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Our vision includes creating a more permissive engagement culture; developing more inclusive practices; co-creating innovative approaches and working in partnership with more diverse audiences to help realise our University’s strategy for social responsibility, research and discovery, and teaching and learning.