It is acknowledged that research which is directed towards public need is better informed and therefore likely to produce more useful results. Subsequently, these results can then be used to further improve practice in health and social care. EPIC-Norfolk wishes to actively promote greater participant involvement in our research. For this reason, in 2010 we set up the EPIC Participant Advisory Panel, or EPAP. The panel acts as a consultation group to advise on many aspects of our research and also to make us more aware of our participants’ interests and views on specific areas of our research. We see the formation of this panel as a Partnership between EPIC Participants and the research team.

March 2010 - Scoping Meeting

Aim – To discover a way forward in our approach to participant involvement in the EPIC research activities.

Dissemination of Results and Information
The Panel has openly discussed possible methods to improve the current strategies for information feedback:
- To the large number of participants
- To professionals
- To the general public
- Methods of promoting EPAP membership and involvement

Questionnaires
Review of current and future questionnaires, regarding:
- Layout
- Content
- Wording

Public Engagement Activities
- Planning of the Cambridge Science Festival stand
- Planning of the stand held in The Forum, Norwich
- Volunteering to help on The Forum stand, during the event

Future EPIC Plans
- Consulted on intervention studies
- Consulted on possible future collaborations

EPIC Website
Constructively advised on:
- Home and other page layouts
- Website navigation
- Additional elements for inclusion
- Methods of promoting the website - development of postcard
- Methods of gathering additional information via the website

Members
12 EPIC Participants and 6 members of the EPIC research team

Additional EPIC staff are invited should an agenda item require specialist involvement