

[The Children and Families Policy Research Unit](#) is one of 15 National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Policy Research Units that undertake research to inform decision-making by government departments and those that support their work, such as NHS England and Public Health England.

The Children and Families Policy Research Unit (CPRU) is committed to involving the voices, skills, and expertise of the public in our work. We are clear that those who take part in our research should be recognised, rewarded, and paid for their valuable and expert contributions.

For several years now CPRU has actively encouraged the involvement of the public in our research. The recognition, rewards, and payment policy exist as a guide to help researchers and the public to be aw 0.588 rgBDC q2Cg0 G(re)-2(se)9(ar01 00e6)-4(io)7(n-3(is)-4(ah)5(e av6(gl)ilab(ardle



	<p>Giving those who participate something tangible that values their involvement.</p>	<p>Our primary means of reward for research participation is gift vouchers.</p> <p>Our preferred voucher is Love2Shop however we are open to individual needs and may offer other vouchers as an alternative.</p> <p>Love2Shop vouchers can be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shopping (ASDA, Sainsbury's, Iceland, Marks and Spencer and Clarks)</li> <li>Food (Beefeater, Costa, Harvester, Pizza Hut, and Pizza Express)</li> <li>Toys (Argos, The Entertainer, Waterstone, WH Smith)</li> </ul> <p>If gift vouchers are being given to those under &lt;18 years of age, we consider what can be purchased within that shop.</p> <p>When working with partner organisations we will follow their standard voucher policy, unless considered unsafe.</p> <p>Alternative rewards could include accreditation, access through the research to development opportunities, paid training that aids the participant's own personal development, tickets to an event, book, shopping vouchers, or phone top-up.</p>
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meetings, workshops, etc.

Payments are normally made a couple of weeks post involvement.

Making sure that patient and public involvement is accessible to everyone

We will always pay for reasonable expenses  
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We will make sure that our researchers have a budget to meaningfully involve the public

Participants will be clear about what they are being offered, and how they will be recognised, rewarded, or paid for their involvement

Payments, incentives, and recognition will always be commensurate with the demands of the activity

We will try to organise involvement at times and places convenient for as many people as possible (including evenings and weekends)

We will ensure that participants are not financially worse off because of being involved in our research

Recognition, rewards, and payments will always be fair and reasonable to everyone involved

Participants should regularly receive feedback and the impact that their involvement has had on the research

We will aim for public involvement to be accessible to as many people by planning ahead to address potential barriers to involvement. Where necessary we will consult with expert organisations to ensure we do this.

We will always aim for public involvement to be stress-free and harm-free. This involves taking a trauma-informed approach and responding positively to feedback from members of the public

We will always acknowledge public involvement in our work

CPRU will provide payments to participants where we are seeking specific advice and contributions to our research.

We will involve multiple groups and individuals and reach out to involve children, young people, parents, and professionals across England, including those with lived experience of domestic violence and abuse, mental health conditions, chronic conditions, and social care experience. When we are consulting pre-existing groups of children, young people, and parents, we will follow those guidelines on payments and rewards. Where these are lower than what we offer, we will negotiate with the organisation to increase these.

Recognition, rewards, and payments will always be fair for all involved. Alterations to payment should not be made unless someone asks for a specific change because of their



always make sure children's and young people's rights are protected and upheld. Partners payments should mirror our payment, reward, and recognition policy, where they pay lower amounts, we will raise to match our best practice.

Please remember that public involvement in our research is your choice. We will never force any member of the public to take part, and if at any point

cash payments are to be made these will be transferred electronically into your bank account via BACS transfer. We cannot make payments by cash or cheque.

Payments are normally made a couple of weeks post involvement.