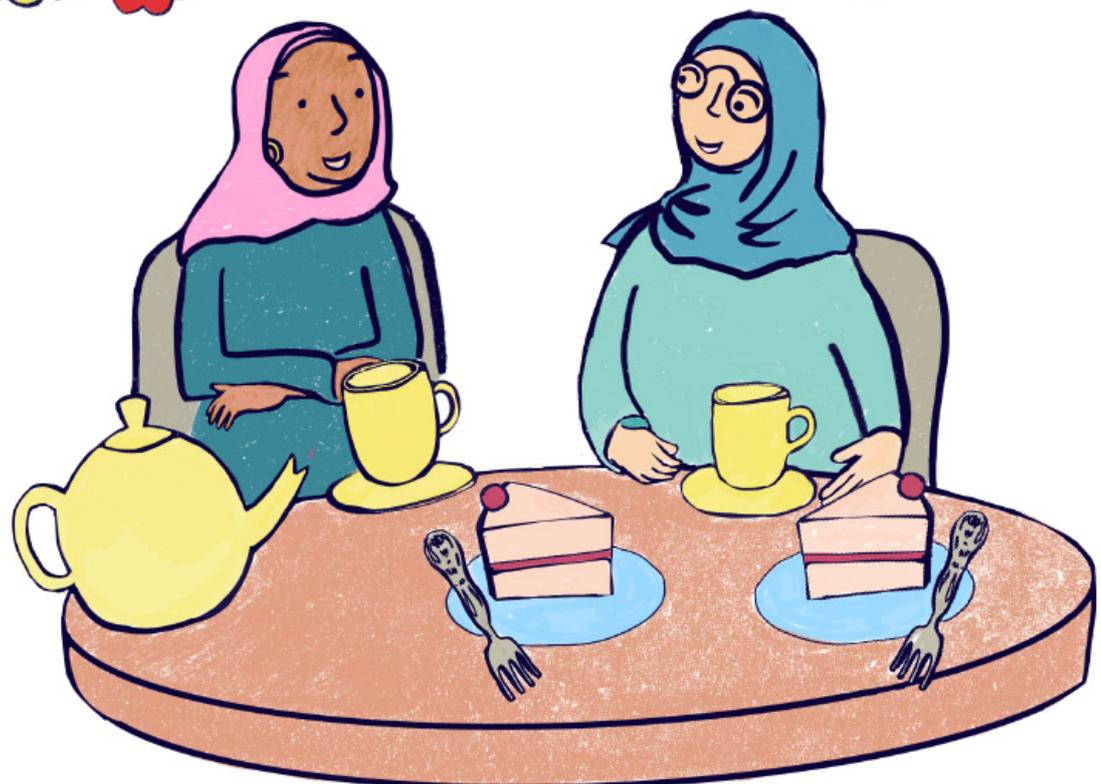


CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE AGREEING TO AN INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH A RESEARCHER



Does the topic align with our priorities and aims?



The topic is aligned with our priorities and aims, let's have a conversation...

Think about what knowledge would be useful for your organisation to have and bring this to the meeting. Research can benefit your organisation, the community you support, or both. It can help organisations to demonstrate impact, show why services are needed or help identify gaps. It can also help to improve health and social care for the community you work with and offer people a chance to share their lived experience.



It could be worth exploring...

It may still be useful to meet and discuss what your research priorities are and build relationships for future projects or offer suggestions to make the research compatible.



Maybe next time...

If the research topic doesn't align with your aims at all, then it may not be a good fit and you can say no.



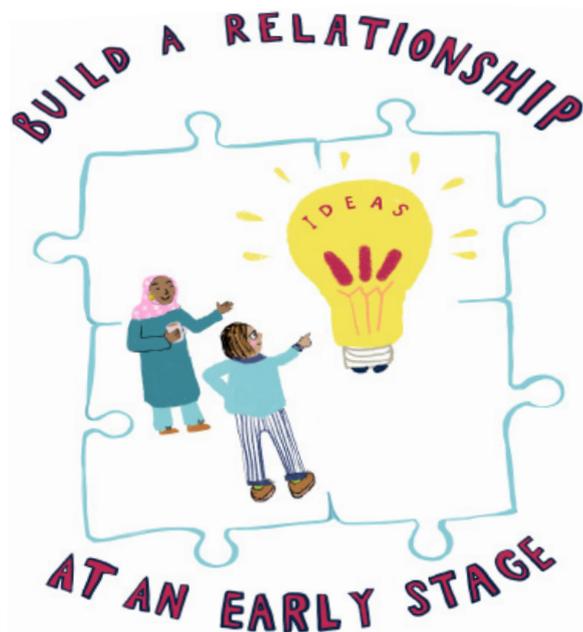
Is the researcher scoping out the topic and building a research question or are they bringing an already formed project? What stage is the research at?



If they are approaching at an early stage, a conversation about how you can shape the research could be valuable...

It is good to build relationships with researchers from an early stage, to get to know each other and whether the partnership is a good fit. This allows research questions to be co-produced and your organisation to shape the design of the research.

If the researcher is keen to involve your organisation or the communities you work with in the design and development of the research question, then this is a positive opportunity to shape the research into something that is beneficial for your organisation too. If they are further along in the process, you could still be involved in some way, so maybe a conversation would be helpful.



If you are being approached at a later stage of the research, then your involvement may be different. Instead of being partners in the project, you may be able to be involved in the research but in a different capacity...

Other ways to be involved:

- Community peer evaluation of the project
- Co-producing Easy Read resources
- Providing recommendations
- Attending a focus group or filling in a survey



Maybe next time...

If the researcher is approaching at a very late stage and the project is not aligned with your interests, it may not be a good fit this time. You could direct them to the NIHR Community Engagement Toolkit which highlights the value of making strong community connections early in the process and building trust.



To what extent is funding in place to fully resource the activity including Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) involved in the research?



Funding is in place...

If the research topic is aligned with your work and there is specific funding in place to do engagement work, then it could be a good fit and it is worth having a conversation. Other costs that should be covered include room hire, interpreters, VCSE staff time, payment for public contributors. This ensures that your organisation has full cost recovery.



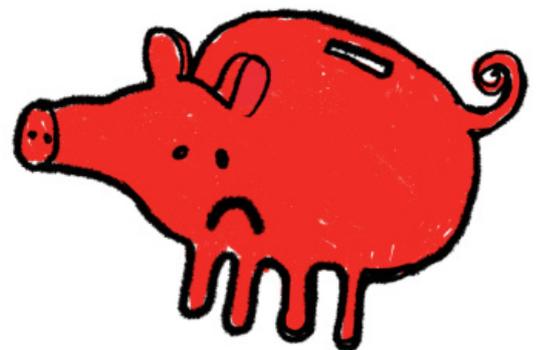
There is some funding in place for PPIE, but not to cover all costs to the organisation, you may consider a conversation...

Often funding for VCSE organisation's involvement is limited to the project and does not include core costs. You may still want to meet the researcher to build connections, or still get involved in the research if it is of benefit to your organisation to go ahead.



Maybe next time...

If there is no funding in place, the researcher could be signposted to the Research Support Service (RSS) for support with PPIE funding and to ensure this is implemented at an earlier stage next time. They could also familiarise themselves with the NIHR guidelines for payment for involvement in research and fund staff time for VCSE organisations.*



*In line with National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) guidance, new projects have to include plans for this in their application.