

Evaluating the Impact of Patient and Public Involvement in Research

21 October 2025

13.00 – 14.30

Online



Chair and Presenters

Chair:

Halle Johnson, Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Manager, NIHR School for Primary Care Research

Presenters:

- **Sarah Biggs**, Public Contributor, Information About Me & NIHR ARC West
- **Andy Gibson**, Associate Professor in Patient and Public Involvement, University West of England
- **Bob McAlister**, Public Research Partner, Wales Cancer Research Centre
- **Alisha Newman**, Senior Research Associate in Patient and Public Involvement & Engagement, Centre for Academic Primary Care, University of Bristol

Session overview

1. What we mean by impact in this session
2. Things to think about when evaluating the impact of public involvement
3. The wider context, common challenges, and good practice
4. Introduce four tools that can help you assess public involvement impact
5. Questions and discussion

You will leave with a working knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of four different approaches

What do we mean by public involvement *impact* ?

- The difference that public involvement makes to research
- The changes, benefits and learning gained from the insights and experiences of patients, carers and the public



Definitions adapted from the UK Standards for Public Involvement Impact Standard. [UK Standards for Public Involvement - Impact](#)

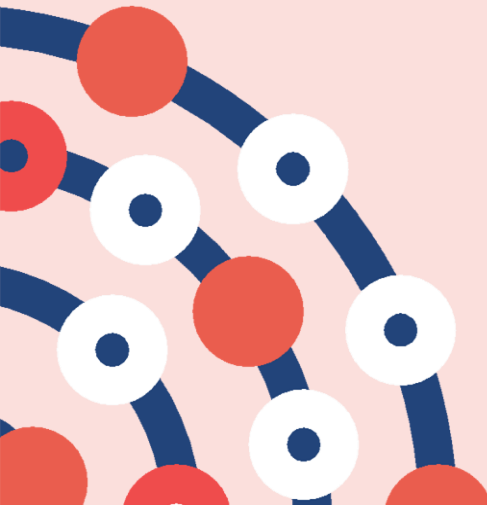
Thinking about Impact

Different kinds of impact which might:

- Stop things happening
- Review (and support) plans already made
- Make positive changes to:
 - the research
 - the people directly or indirectly involved
 - linked to purpose of involvement
- Result in unanticipated impacts

Different time frames and levels

- Within a study or project
- Across a number of related studies
- Related to the culture of research teams and departments



What and when to evaluate

- What is the purpose of your public involvement and what type of evaluation is best going to meet your needs?
- How would you know that your aims and objectives have been met?
- Are you evaluating process and/or impacts?
- Is your PPIE fit for purpose? For your project, participants and funding bodies?



Public perspective: Motivations for involvement and common challenges to impact

- The power to have a voice and equal status with researchers
- The fear of saying what you believe and having it listened to
- The awareness that we can't represent everyone, but we are a voice that comes from the community, patient and carer, tax-payer
- Communication:
 - provide feedback on what has happened/changed
 - acknowledge public contributions
 - Help them understand what are the next steps, when (or if) they can expect to hear back
 - Do you have a point of contact in the team, critical for capturing impact?
 - Be clear on your expectations of public contributors

Good Practice – The UK Standards for Public Involvement



IMPACT

Seek improvement by identifying and sharing the difference that public involvement makes to research

- *Understand the changes, benefits and learning gained from the*
- *insights and experiences of patients, carers and the public*

Reflective Questions:

- Are the public involved in deciding what the assessment of impact should focus on, and the approach to take?
- Is it clear what information to collect to help assess impact, including who has been involved and how?
- Are there processes in place to help reflect on public involvement?
- Are the changes, benefits and learning resulting from public involvement acted on?

Find out more: about the six [UK standards](#) and their supporting materials, including downloadable documents in different formats.

Four approaches to evaluating public involvement impact



1. A comprehensive approach:

The Public Involvement Impact Assessment Framework (PiiAF)

2. A pragmatic approach:

The Public Involvement Log.

3. A UK Standards-linked approach:

The Public Involvement in Research Impact Toolkit (PIRIT)

4. A participatory approach:

The Cube framework.

A comprehensive approach:

Public Involvement Impact Assessment Framework (PiiAF)



Public Involvement Impact Assessment Framework (PiiAF)

Introduction

Structure

Part 1: PiiAF →

Part 2: Assessment Planning →

Resources

Summary of our Research

Glossary

Further Reading

Record Card

Feedback

And finally...

Welcome to the PiiAF website

PiiAF has been produced to help researchers assess the impacts of involving members of the public in their research in diverse fields from health care to local history.



How are the public involved in research?

Examples include helping decide which research should be done and how it is done; collecting and analysing data and developing research instruments.

Who is PiiAF for?

PiiAF is aimed at researchers but members of the public interested in getting involved in research may also find it useful and some people have used it in training for researchers and the public.

Why do researchers need this?

Most major funders in health research now require applicants to involve members of the public. The guidance is designed to be used at the time research ideas and funding proposals are being developed.

Who are we?

The PiiAF Study Group includes academics, public involvement facilitators from NIHR Research Networks and members of the public, supported by a grant from the UK Medical Research Council.

PDF



Download Guidance Document

PDF



Download Executive Summary

Find out more about PiiAF at <http://piiaf.org.uk/> OR [PIIAF-Assessment-Framework-Measuring-PPI-Impact-2014.pdf](#)

A pragmatic approach:

The Public Involvement Log



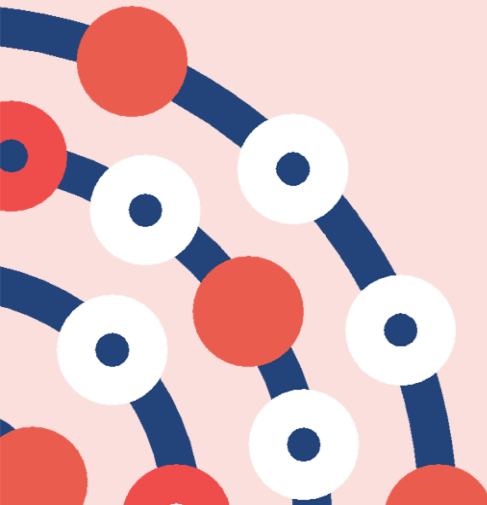
- Record and monitor the involvement process and immediate outcomes
- Reflective process required to understand impacts and for learning
- Enables the public contributors voice to be heard.
- A good starting point



Using the Impact Log Effectively



- Agree together what you are going to log.
- When, how often and who?
- Form a simple record that acts as a reminder for colleagues of progress to date and actions arising.
- Use this report to present findings together as part of knowledge dissemination.



Public Involvement Log

Date	Project	Type of involvement	Who took part	Outcome*	Impact**	Reflections/learning

*Outcome: Immediate, demonstrable change

**Impact: Sustained change, can be intended/unintended, positive/negative

Completed log example

<i>Date</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Type of involvement</i>	<i>Who took part?</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Reflections/learning</i>
03/04/2018	ROSS study: To inform the funding application of a feasibility clinical trial in the CV-BRC comparing surgery for 3 different kinds of heart valve	Proposal planning meeting	PI, PPI lead, trial manager. Surgeon was involved in developing the group but did not attend (at request of PPI lead). 7 members of the public who had experiences of living with heart valve replacement and 6 'carers' who participated in the main group discussion but also a split off group	Clinical trial outcome measures were modified to include factors clinicians had not previously factored in based on people's lived experiences, e.g. the quality of life variable, the emotional toil of an operation Unanticipated: New support measures put in place for the trial in cases where emotional toil became an issue for participants 3 members of the public became co-applicants on the proposal	Anticipated: Improved project proposal with appropriate outcome indicators. Unanticipated: The trial became more responsive to patients' personal needs Unanticipated: Genuine project co-production Unanticipated: Development of Arco Study Unanticipated Ross used in best practice examples	Ensure views of carers/significant others are accounted for. Involve at earlier stage to avoid amendments. Develop PPI to include collaborative work moving forward Develop engagement at earliest opportunity

Key points: Public Involvement Log

- Available in different formats
- A tool for reporting, reflecting and learning
- Designed to include the views of researchers and public contributors
- Time-efficient
- Can be developed to meet study needs
- Available as an online tool
- Keep colleagues informed about PPIE progress.

Free download at: <https://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/patient-and-public-involvement/resources/patient-and-public-involvement-impact-log/>

**People in Health
West of England**

The online impact log for Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) for researchers -Original

The online record for Patient Public Involvement (PPI) captures immediate feedback for PPI involvement. It can be used as a record of the involvement and encourages reflection on the immediate outcomes and impact of the work. It is made up of 10 questions with text boxes and sliding scales to enable a time efficient way of recording the work. Researchers/facilitators are encouraged to complete the record. It is important to ensure the views of public contributors are captured.

* Required

1. Your name *

Enter your answer

2. Date of form completion *

Please input date (dd/MM/yyyy)

3. Title of project *

Enter your answer

4. What was the type of involvement?

☐ Email

☐ Online Meeting

☐ Telephone Consultation

☐ Series of Workshops



A UK Standards-linked approach: Public Involvement in Research Impact Toolkit (PIRIT)

Development context:

- Partnership project began in 2020
- Marie Curie Research Centre and Wales Cancer Research Centre, Cardiff University
- Project team 4 public members and 2 researchers
- Integrate the principles of the UK standards into practice
- Pragmatic framework to support impact from planning through to reporting
- Can be applied across different research settings



What is PIRIT?

Two pragmatic tools to help you to:

1

Plan and integrate
public
involvement in
research

2

Track public
contributions and
the difference
they make

3

Report impact
against the UK
Standards for
Public
Involvement

- Originally intended for in-house use – shared due to demand
- Free for users under certain conditions



PIRIT Planning Tool

1 Involving the appropriate population

A | Public contributor opportunities and involvement mechanisms

- ☒ The public contributor person specification reflects the group or population of research interest. (Inclusive Opportunities)
- ☐ The public contributor role profile is written in lay language and reflects the anticipated involvement opportunities and timelines. (Communications, Inclusive Opportunities)
- ☒ Objectives for public contributor's involvement are negotiated and agreed with the research team. (Working Together)
- ☒ Different levels and types of involvement opportunities are available to encourage a spectrum of contributors/contributors. (Inclusive Opportunities, Working Together)
- ☐ Access to study meetings/discussions is enabled for all public contributors including virtual attendance/platforms where physical attendance is not possible or appropriate. (Inclusive Opportunities, Working Together)

B | Public contributor recruitment

- ☒ All available means of public contributor recruitment have been considered and utilised to enable the target population to apply. (Inclusive Opportunities)

C | Costing and funding public involvement activities

- ☒ Public involvement is costed into the grant reflecting anticipated out-of-pocket expenses for undertaking public involvement activities. (Governance)
- ☐ Public contributors are reimbursed for time spent on involvement activities based on current time commitment and support requirements. (Governance)

D | Public control and training

- ☐ Public contributors are offered opportunities of contact for the research project and offer support. (Governance, Support)

See section 4 for coordination

B | Public contributor recruitment

- ☒ All available means of public contributor recruitment have been considered and utilised to enable the target population to apply. (Inclusive Opportunities)
- ☐ Public contributors are recruited at the pre-funding stage. (Governance)
- ☐ Public contributors act as co-applicant on the grant. (Governance, Working Together)
- ☐ Additional Public contributors are recruited when funding is awarded. (Inclusive Opportunities, Governance)



Public Involvement in Research Impact Toolkit

PIRIT Planning Tool

Version 1 | Launched 6th February 2023

Canolfan Ymchwil
Marie Curie
Research Centre
CARDIFF CAERDYDD



Ymchwil Iechyd
a Gofal Cymru
Health and Care
Research Wales



PIRIT Planning Tool

1 Involving the appropriate population

A | Public contributor opportunities and involvement mechanisms

- ☐ The public contributor person specification reflects the group or population of research interest. (Inclusive Opportunities)
- ☐ The public contributor role profile is written in lay language and reflects the anticipated involvement opportunities and timelines. (Communications, Inclusive Opportunities)
- ☐ Objectives for public contributor's activity are negotiated and agreed with them. (Working Together)
- ☐ Different levels and types of involvement opportunities are available to encourage a spectrum of contributions/contributors. (Inclusive Opportunities, Working Together)
- ☐ Access to study meetings/discussions is enabled for all public contributors including virtual attendance/platforms where physical attendance is not possible or appropriate. (Inclusive Opportunities, Working Together)

B | Public contributor recruitment

- ☐ All available means of public contributor recruitment have been considered and utilised to enable the target population to apply. (Inclusive Opportunities)
- ☐ Public contributors are recruited at the pre-funding stage. (Governance)
- ☐ Public contributors act as co-applicant on the grant. (Governance, Working Together)
- ☐ Additional Public contributors are recruited when funding is awarded. (Inclusive Opportunities, Governance)

C | Costing and funding public involvement activities

- ☒ Public involvement is costed into the grant reflecting anticipated costs relating to out-of-pocket expenses and payment for time undertaking involvement activities. (Governance)
- ☐ Public contributors are offered reimbursement for expenses such as accommodation, travel, subsistence, and where possible, these costs are paid for in advance. (Governance, Working Together)
- ☐ Public contributors are offered payment for time spent on involvement activities based on current tariffs which reflect the time commitment, experience, knowledge, and support required of the involved public. (Governance)

D | Public contributors support and training

- ☐ Public contributors are given a main point of contact for the study who will liaise with them and offer support as appropriate. (Governance, Support & Learning)

See section 4 for public involvement coordination and documentation.

- ☐ Public contributors are provided with and/or signposted to mentoring and training to support their involvement. (Support & Learning)

Find out about 'Enabling Involvement Fund' schemes which provide funds to support the development of early-stage public involvement in research.

2 The difference public contributors make to the research question and design

A | Informing research priorities

- ☒ The research question is informed by a local/national research prioritisation exercise involving public contributors. (Inclusive Opportunities)

B | Shaping the research question

- ☐ A strategy to ensure that the extent and limitations of the research question are understood by public contributors has been devised. (Communications, Support & Learning)
- ☐ Public contributors are involved in the formulation of the research question to ensure relevant to the needs of the population of interest. (Inclusive Opportunities, Working Together)

C | Research methods acceptability and accessibility

- ☐ Public contributors are involved in the scoping of potential research methods to ensure they answer the research question and fully consider the patient context. (Inclusive Opportunities, Governance)

D | Defining the study outcomes and measures

- ☐ Public contributors are involved in the development of the study outcomes. (Governance, Working Together)
- ☐ Public contributors are consulted on and understand study outcome measures, and their relationship with the defined outcomes. (Communications, Working Together)
- ☐ Public contributors are satisfied that outcomes and measures are appropriate to the research population. (Governance, Working Together)

3 The difference public contributors make to the conduct of research

A | Ethical considerations

- ☐ Public contributors are involved in identifying ethical considerations. (Governance, Working Together)
- ☐ Public contributors are invited to attend the ethics panel meeting. (Governance, Working Together)

B | Study participant recruitment strategy

- ☐ Public contributors are involved in establishing study participant recruitment strategies to ensure it is carried out in an appropriate manner. (Inclusive Opportunities, Governance)

C | Assessing the accuracy and accessibility of study information

- ☐ Public contributors are invited to draft and/or review lay language sections/documents used in the study. (Working Together)
- ☐ Public contributors assess all patient facing study information to confirm that it is comprehensive, easily understood, and accessible to participants in relevant formats. (Working Together, Governance)

D | Assessing participant burden

- ☐ Public contributors are consulted to ensure that there is no prohibitive responsibility for study participants or those supporting them to participate. This burden could include financial costs or time costs. (Governance, Working Together)
- ☐ Public contributors are involved in reviewing participant assessments to consider whether it is sensible and appropriate, and that no excess data is collected. (Governance, Working Together)

E | Contribution to meetings

- ☐ Public contributors are part of the governance groups and can contribute to governance, study management and project meetings. (Governance, Working Together)

Public involvement activity as outlined in sections 1 to 3 can be described in funding applications as proof of early public involvement in study design/bid preparation.

4 Public involvement coordination and documentation

A | Project team public involvement knowledge and role

- ☒ There is a designated member of the study team who is the main point of contact for the involved public, who will liaise with them and offer signposting and support as appropriate. (Governance, Support & Learning, Working Together)
- ☐ The project team is familiar with the UK Standards for Public Involvement in Research and the principles that underpin them. (Support & Learning, Governance)
- ☐ Project team training on public involvement is identified and undertaken if required. (Support & Learning)

B | Public involvement record keeping

- ☐ There is a dedicated folder within the electronic project file to document all public involvement activities. (Governance, Impact)
- ☐ The negotiated objectives for public contributors' activity are documented during study set up with timelines. (Working Together, Governance, Impact)
- ☐ Public involvement activity throughout the project is recorded including emails and other pertinent communications. (Working Together, Governance, Impact)
- ☐ A means of recording public involvement reflections is available to the researchers and public contributors to record reflections or activities not captured by meeting minutes or other recording mechanisms. (Working Together, Impact)

C | Capturing the impact of public involvement on the research

- ☐ A record of public contributions and their influence/impact on study decision-making is kept and updated as contributions occur. (Impact, Communications)
- ☐ The records are regularly reviewed, and contributions shared with relevant parties so that study decisions are influenced in real time as the project progresses. (Working Together, Communications, Impact)
- ☐ Use the PIRIT Tracking Tool to support recording and reporting against the UK Standards for Public Involvement in Research.

D | Ongoing researcher and public contributor meetings

- ☐ Meetings between the researcher(s) and the public contributors are scheduled and held throughout the project. (Governance, Working Together)
- ☐ Meeting papers/discussion topics are circulated one week before a meeting. (Communications, Working Together)
- ☐ Public contributors' activity is reviewed against the set objectives and timelines at agreed intervals. (Governance, Working Together, Impact)

E | Reflecting on public involvement activity during the research

- ☒ Reflection on public involvement approaches, processes, and practice are part of the regular meetings. (Impact, Support & Learning, Working Together)
- ☐ Learning from the reflections on the public involvement activity is shared to inform future public involvement approaches, processes, and practice. (Support & Learning, Communications, Impact)

5 The difference public contributors make to the research outcomes and dissemination of results

A | Contextual interpretation of data and findings

- ☐ Public contributors are involved in the process of interpreting the research results in the context of the study population. (Governance)

B | Dissemination strategy

- ☐ Public contributors help develop results dissemination strategies. (Governance, Communications)
- ☐ Public contributors play a role in disseminating the results. E.g. to relevant patient/interest groups and the public. (Communications, Working Together)

C | Public involvement in academic outputs

- ☐ Public contributors are on the circulation list for results/report of findings to the research team. (Working Together, Communications)
- ☐ Public contributors write or contribute to sections of study papers/reports and are named co-authors. (Working Together, Governance)
- ☐ Public involvement activity is outlined in the main project paper. (Working Together, Governance)
- ☐ Public contributors are invited and costed to attend conferences to jointly present or lead on presentation of findings. (Working Together, Communications, Support & Learning)

D | Social media

- ☐ Public contributors are invited to use social media to disseminate results with informal training if required. (Support & Learning, Communications)
- ☐ Public contributors are invited to monitor social media for references to the study. (Working Together, Communications)

6

The difference public contributors make to the implementation of findings

A | Pathway to practice

- ☒ Public contributors are involved in consideration of how the conclusions of the research will be embedded in professional practice, for example: Government policy, clinical guidelines, commissioning, and implementation. (Governance, Working Together)

B | Assessing research impact: patient groups and clinical sites

- ☐ Public contributors are invited to liaise with specific patient groups and practice sites to monitor how study findings are received and acted upon. (Working Together, Communications)

7

Public contributor debriefing

A | Assessing the outcomes of planned public involvement activity and how public involvement has informed the project

- ☐ Public contributors are invited to meet to discuss their impact on the study. (Impact, Working Together, Governance)
- ☒ Public contributors are invited to meet to reflect on and discuss potential improvements to public involvement approaches, processes, and practice. (Working Together, Support & Learning, Governance)

8

Reporting the difference public involvement has made to the research and lessons learned

A | Reporting and promoting public involvement impact

- ☒ Public contributors are invited to draft a report of their involvement and its impact for inclusion in or to be the focus of a paper, poster, or presentation. (Working Together, Impact, Communications)
- ☐ Evidence of the difference public contributions have made to the research is included in all outputs relating to the study, e.g., papers, funder reports, impact cases, and Research Excellence Framework (REF) returns. (Impact, Communications, Working Together)
- ☒ Publicity specifically focused on sharing the impact of public involvement on the study is generated and promoted e.g., news articles, blogs, case studies, conference posters, presentations, and papers. (Communications, Impact, Working Together)

B | Public involvement learning and development

- ☒ Opportunities to share public involvement learning and good practice with colleagues and wider audiences are identified. (Working Together, Impact)
- ☐ Public contributors co-develop and co-deliver learning/good practice sessions. (Support & Learning, Working Together, Communications)

PIRIT Tracking Tool

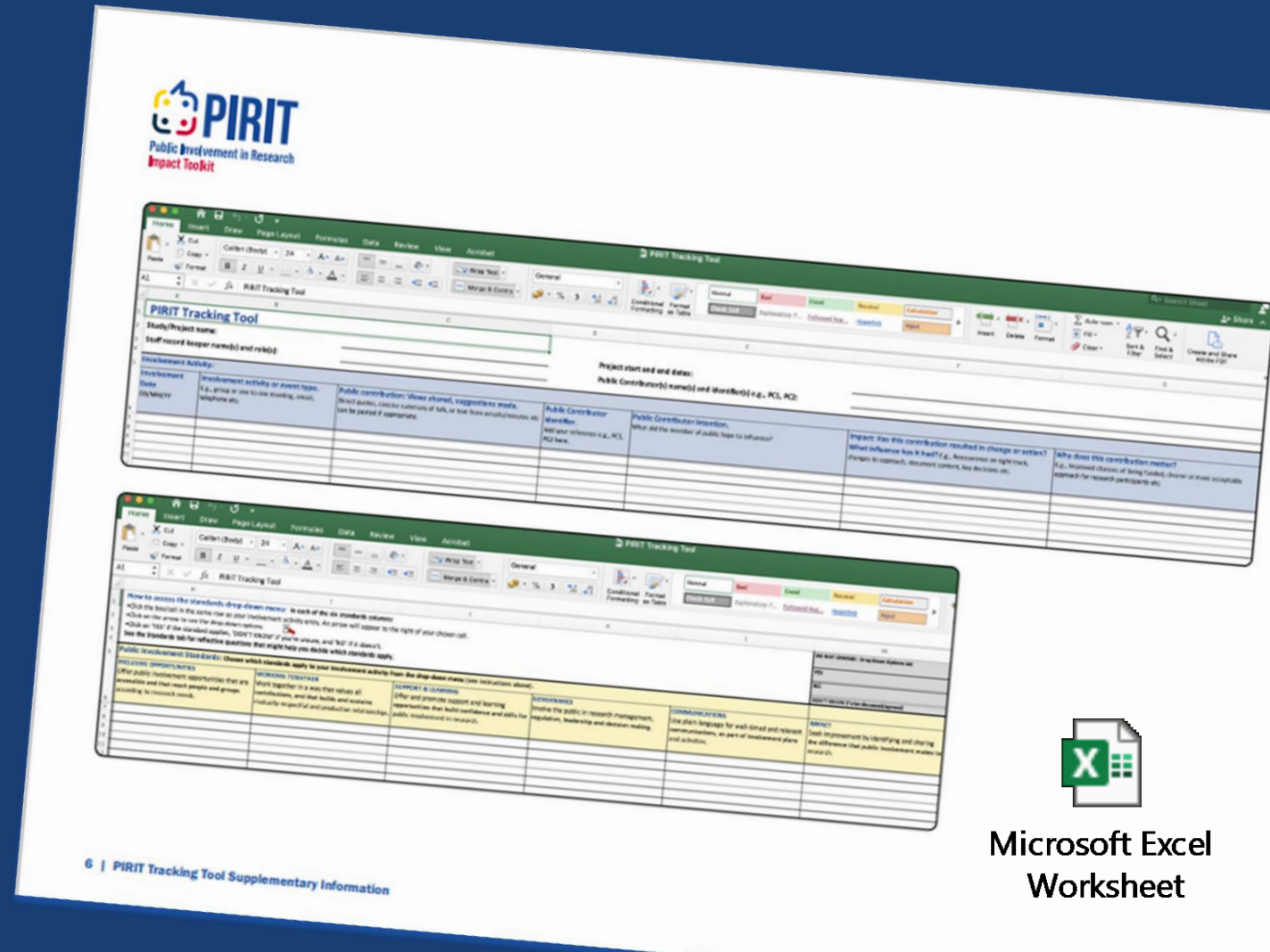
1. Involvement Activity:

- When and how the public contributed
- What they hoped to influence
- What changed (if anything)
- Why it matters (so what?)

2. Involvement Standards:

- Which standards the entry relates to

It's a spreadsheet!



Microsoft Excel
Worksheet

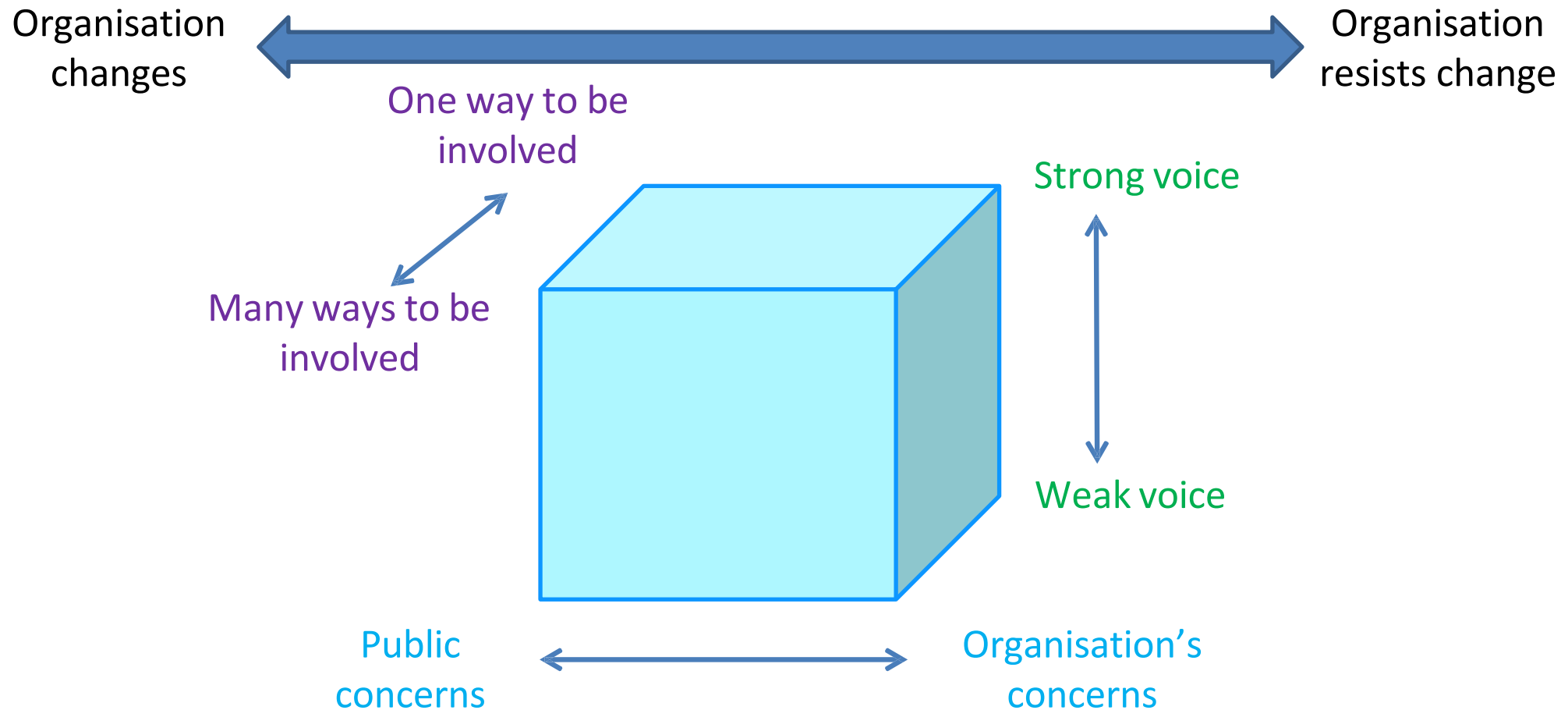
A participatory approach:

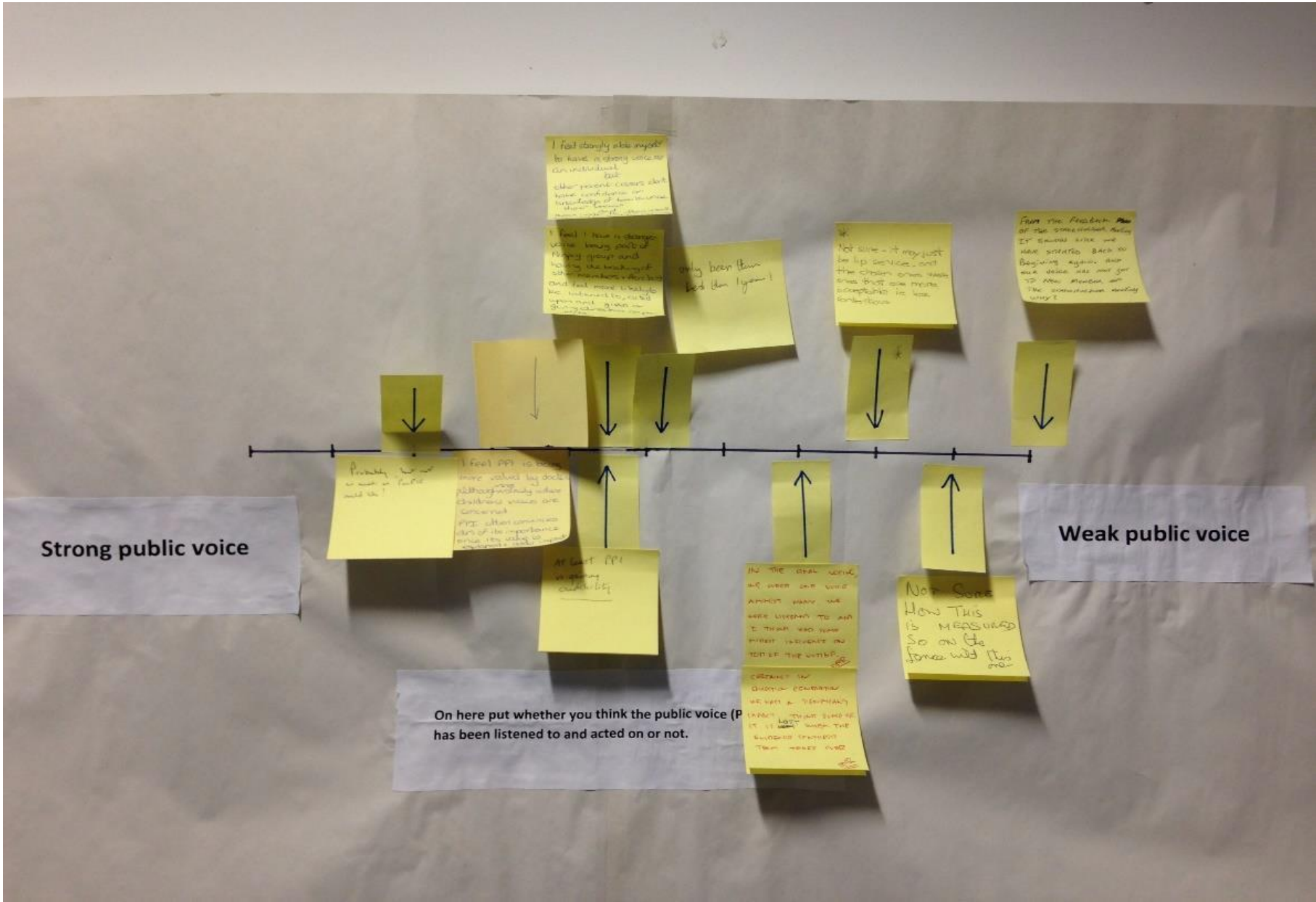
The Cube Evaluation Framework

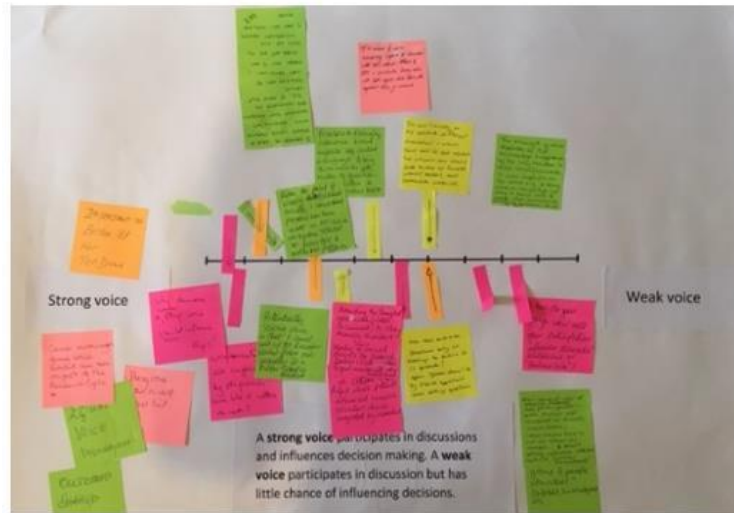
Public involvement as a knowledge space:
where different forms of knowledge can interact on an equal basis



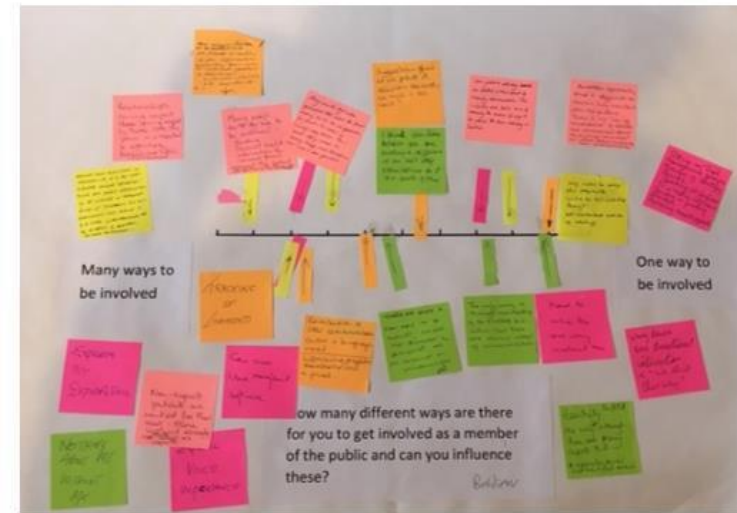
Cube framework for understanding involvement



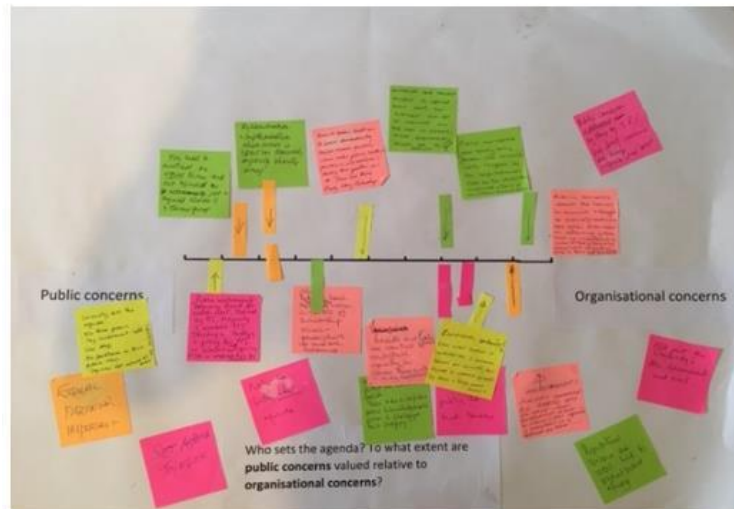




Strong voice - Weak voice



Many ways - One way to be involved

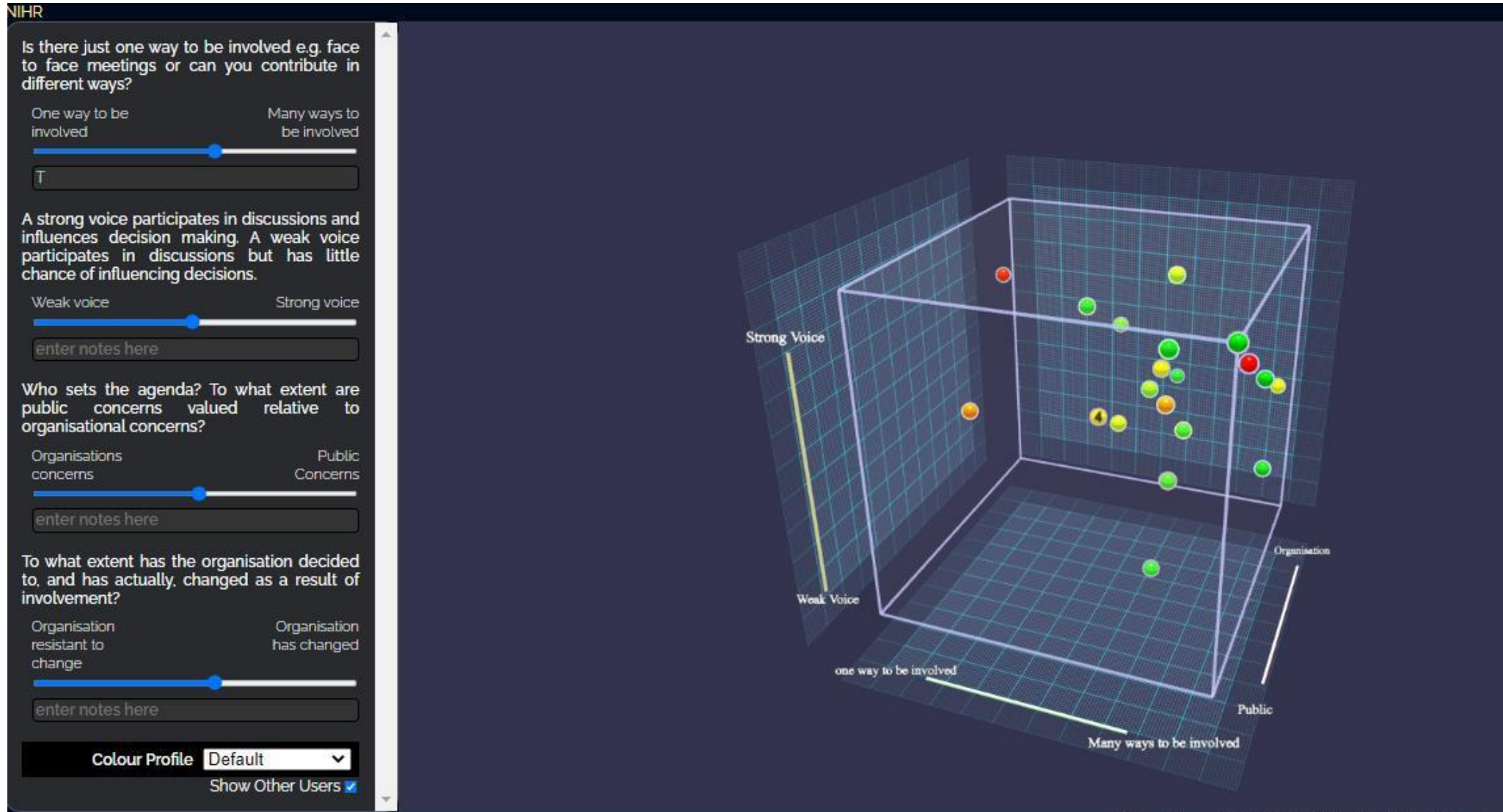


Public concerns - Organisation's concerns



Organisation changes - Organisation resists change

Online cube



Bringing it all together



1. A comprehensive approach:

The Public Involvement Impact Assessment Framework (PiiAF)

- <http://piiaf.org.uk/> OR [PIIAF-Assessment-Framework-Measuring-PPI-Impact-2014.pdf](#)

2. A pragmatic approach:

The Public Involvement Log.

- <https://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/patient-and-public-involvement/resources/patient-and-public-involvement-impact-log/>

3. A UK Standards-linked approach:

The Public Involvement in Research Impact Toolkit (PIRIT)

- <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/marie-curie-research-centre/patient-and-public-involvement/public-involvement-in-research-impact-toolkit-pirit>

4. A participatory approach:

The Cube framework.

- <https://john.gundryconsultancy.com/the-online-cube-tool/>

Q&A Discussion



Thank you for taking part in this public involvement impact webinar.

Please share your feedback:

