

# Participatory Research Ethics Surgery

## Discussion Summary

25 April 2025

### Overview

We held the fourth session of the Inspiring Ethics Support Group on the 25 April 2025! Unlike our previous sessions, no quandaries were submitted by attendees for discussion. Instead, we used this an opportunity for a more general discussion about what challenges people are facing in participatory research and how to improve our surgeries moving forward.

### Main discussion

#### Ethics in non-academic settings

- Ethics processes, guidance and governance are a growing area of interest outside of academic institutions.
- For example, some local authorities have been given funding to [develop their own research infrastructure](#). However, most ethics guidance for non-academic institutions is NHS-based.
- Similarly, the language used to discuss research ethics is often too academic in these contexts.
- There is opportunity to better reach, engage and support those responsible for developing research infrastructure in these contexts.

#### Inspiring Ethics – Scoping Review Update

- The Inspiring Ethics team have begun conducting a scoping review to explore how participatory research projects have navigated ethical tensions with university ethics boards. A summary and update were provided, highlighting the themes that have begun to emerge.
- Attendees had a short discussion about some of the findings around IP, collaboration agreements, compensation, and how vulnerable populations are defined.

## **Suggestions for future topics of discussion**

- Other ethical models
- Deep dives into specific participatory methods

## **Useful resources**

- Levitas, A., Taylor, E., Navelle, P. L., Humphreys, E., & Sheringham, J. (2025). Local authorities need tailored research ethics processes to support research capacity building. *Public health in practice (Oxford, England)*, 9, 100587.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhip.2025.100587>