

# MIDLANDS ENGINE HEALTH

## Focus on Health Diversity - Midlands Public Patient Involvement & Engagement Network

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The Midlands PPIE Network brings together professionals and representatives to discuss the importance of patient outreach and ensuring engagement with diverse communities as part of our region's ground-breaking health and life sciences research.

The first regional virtual PPIE event - Beyond COVID-19: New directions for Public Involvement in Health and Social Care Research in the Midlands - took place in March 2021. It brought together a diverse group of people to network and learn about the latest developments in PPIE, and share ideas and best practice on, for example, empowering PPI representatives and planning for the future.

Organised and co-ordinated by the Midlands Health Alliance (MHA), an organisation flying the flag for the rich and diverse pool of clinical research expertise within our region, the first day of the event featured keynote speaker Zoë Gray, Associate Director of Involvement, Engagement and Participation at the NIHR Centre for Engagement and Dissemination, known for her work in shaping services and research.

The event also included a session dedicated to diversity and inclusion, featuring representatives from BAME communities talking about some of the do's and don'ts when undertaking PPI.



*Lois Daniels, MHA's Operations Manager*

"The first event that brought together the Midlands PPIE community was a great success with almost 250 registrations. It was great to see attendees engaging with the sessions facilitated by professionals and representatives from the across the region with a lot of interesting discussion taking place. The MHA felt that it was important to bring this community together as PPIE is a very important part of developing health research and due to the success of the first event we look forward to co-ordinating more in the future."



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