

**CONVERSATIONS TO DEVELOP THE
DORSET REN RESEARCH HUB CHARTER:
CO-DESIGNING A COMMITMENT TO WORK WITH
SHARED PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITY THAT
REFLECTS FOUNDER REMEMBER CORE VALUES
AND PRINCIPLES**

“Nobody is just one thing - we wanted to show the breadth of people that experience homelessness by asking more about them and for some, this was the first time they had been asked who they were or what they like doing.” - Community Partner

This quote reflects the importance of a person-centred approach to research and of recognising people as complex individuals. It rejects the idea of reducing research participants to categorised data points.

This quote suggests that research need not be ‘detached’ to be of value and that it can be embedded in care; it can enrich the data due to the level of understanding between the ‘researcher’ and the ‘participant’.

“Research opportunities have enabled me to get much closer relationship with our patients.” - Community Partner

“Not being the clinician has been helpful because I get to chat to people about who they really are and what they really want and what matters to them.” - Community Partner

This quote highlights the importance of recognising your positionality; stepping out of your caring role may allow for more informal, authentic conversation and connection.

This challenges the idea of research as a mechanical data-gathering process and shows the value of meaningful engagement with everyone involved, and contributing to the changing narrative of what research can be.

“I think some people found it very moving to chat about who they really are, without there being an endgame, not trying to get from one piece of paper to the next.” - Community Partner

“It’s the action that replaces the word that shows we really mean it – when there’s trusting relationships, I am allowed to make mistakes and that vulnerability from me, enables others to speak out more.” - Community Partner

This quote illustrates the importance of trust and fostering a space in which all involved feel safe to be vulnerable and authentic, and this becomes the accepted way of working.

This quote shows the need for adaptability in research, so those involved are able to contribute in a way that works for them. Co-production is a method of embedding this in the design of the research.

“I heard the most in places where it was most chaotic, with the least structure because that is comfortable for the person – if we were having a collaborative meeting, nobody would have turned up.” - Community Partner

“The research was very much make it up as you go along and it was quite liberating.” - Community Researcher

This quote reflects the idea of a research process which evolves over time, in response to changing contextual factors, rather than following a strict, inflexible protocol.

This quote advocates for questioning traditional ideas of what is ‘normal’ in research and that we must empower teams to co-create methods; this places value on lived experience as fundamental for shaping research.

“I think we should be challenging any orthodoxy or best practice we are given and defining our own – the proof is in the pudding.” - Community Partner

“We’ve got an opportunity to challenge all of the assumptions - maybe that is the magic – and what comes out of that is something that none of us expected – that’s what I find exciting.” - Community Partner

This quote captures the opportunities that this flexible and adaptable approach, which challenges the current ‘norms’ can lead to; an environment where surprising findings and unforeseen outcomes can flourish and lead to new directions for the research.

This quote, which was heard from another community partner, underlines a commitment to treating all contributions as having equal value, irrespective of a person's background, role and method and amount they wish to share. There is genuine partnership with shared-ownership of the research and any risk of tokenism and dominance is challenged.

“Everyone is heard at the same volume.” - BU PIER Team

“We want to bring the academic, clinical research world together with communities, organisations and people with lived experiences; evidence shows this makes research more relevant, higher quality and more impactful because we are asking the right questions, to the right people, in the right way.” - BU PIER Team

Valuing different expertise equally and co-designing how all partners will work together is key to improving research quality, relevance and impact; we will develop new inclusive processes and systems and work to dismantle remaining institutional barriers.

THESE CONTRIBUTIONS REFLECT A STRONG COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE, RELATIONAL, AND PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH THAT VALUES LIVED EXPERIENCE, CHALLENGES TRADITIONAL POWER DYNAMICS, AND EMBRACES FLEXIBILITY, CO-PRODUCTION, AND CRITICAL THINKING TO UNDERTAKE MORE MEANINGFUL AND IMPACTFUL RESEARCH. ENCOURAGINGLY, THESE REFLECTIONS ALIGN CLOSELY WITH THE NINE REN PRINCIPLES.

THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED.