
Newsletter February 2026

Dear PPI Partner



We are now in the third year of our 2024-2028 PRU-MNHC programme. We have been working on six research projects over the first two years of this programme. These include Project 1, which focuses on understanding the effectiveness of interventions to address [inequalities in outcomes for Black, Asian and ethnic minority women and babies](#). Our regular [national survey of women's experiences of maternity services](#), with a focus on perinatal mental health, is a key part of the programme, as well as research to [evaluate the impact of neonatal care](#) for preterm babies. You can find links to these and other current projects on our [homepage](#).

The voices of women and families continue to be at the heart of all our research. We have updated our [Parent, Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement \(PPPIE\) strategy](#) for this 2024-2028 programme to ensure we deliver this with the support of our [PPI Task Group](#), a team of academics and lived experience experts, representing diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Family voices at the heart of our studies

Our [PPI Task Group](#) review all PRU-MNHC projects for PPI, reaching out to you, our PPI partners, if the work is relevant to the families you represent. For the national survey of women's experience, we talked to a group of women from different ethnic backgrounds, and with different experiences of motherhood, including disability and being a single mum. Following their advice, we removed questions from the survey that were not a priority for parents, made our language more sensitive, and made information about the study clearer and more engaging. We also added a page to our website

to [highlight the impact](#) of previous surveys so anyone taking part might know their input can lead to meaningful change to policy and services.

Meanwhile, for [Project 1](#), our PPI advisory group supported us in developing inclusive processes for recruitment. This improved diverse participation from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic representatives in the survey, which was a key part of the research.

Some of our studies are still ongoing, while others are complete and currently awaiting publication. You can see an [updated list of our publications](#) on our website and read more about the way PPI has influenced studies on our [PPI in action pages](#).

Talking About Pre-conception Health and future sessions

Our regular [Talking About webinars](#) are an opportunity for our PPI partners to go 'behind the scenes' of a research project and ask the team about why and how they carried out a particular study and what they found. As part of this programme, we invited PPI partners to hear about a study looking at how many babies in England received a health check by a GP when they were 6-8 weeks old.



The researchers used the GP records of around 1.2 million babies born between 2006 and 2021 and found [ethnic inequities in the coverage for mothers and babies accessing the 6-8 week checks](#).

In January 2026, we looked at whether women were receiving pre-conception advice in the year before becoming pregnant and found coverage was extremely low. We anticipate our next Talking About session will focus on our project looking at [changes in midwifery care over time](#).

The inaugural PRU-MNHC Academy: forging connections to maximise the impact of our research



On 3 November, 2025, we held our inaugural PRU-MNHC Academy. This one-day event gathered PRU researchers, PPI partners currently working on PRU projects, policymakers, funders and clinicians for a day of talks, networking and activities – all based around the theme of “*maximising the impact of policy research in maternal and neonatal health and care.*”

Attendees took a deep dive into research communication, in an activity devised by the PRU PPI Task Group to explore how we can share research findings more usefully with a variety of audiences. We also got a sneak preview of the findings of three of the projects currently underway at the PRU – watch this space for upcoming publications!

More information on the day is [here](#).

We very much hope you and your families are well. We really appreciate all the support you have given to parent, patient and public involvement at the PRU-MNHC through 2025, and we look forward to working with you in 2026.

With best wishes, Charlotte and Rachel (co-leads for the PPI Task Group) and the PPI Task Group team.



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