



Public Involvement in  
Education and Research Partnership

Annual Report 2022-23

September 2022-August 2023

# Flipping the power:

developing inclusive public involvement



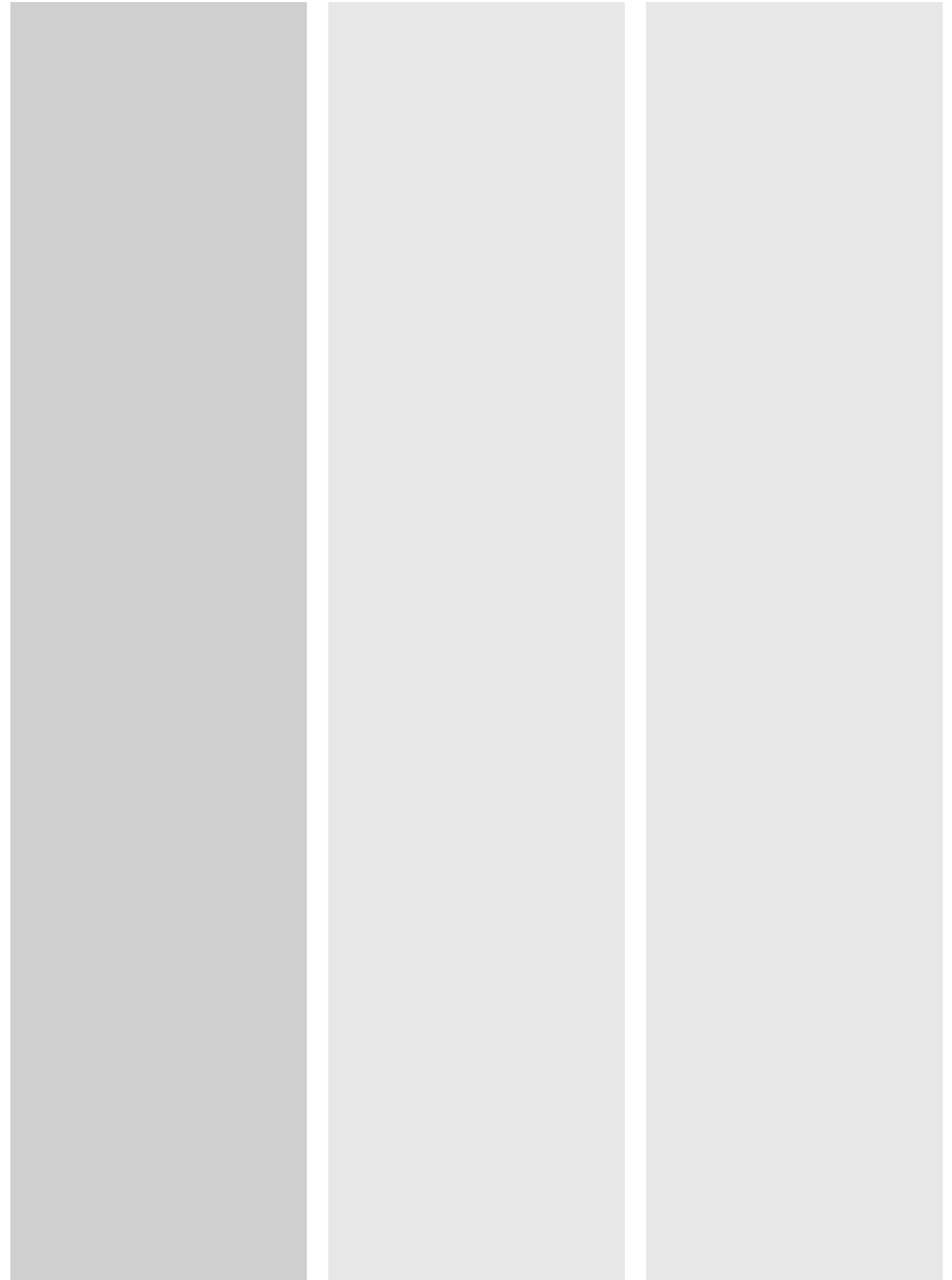
# About us: Our goal, values and approach

The PIER partnership is a collaboration between people with lived experience, community partners, academics and students at Bournemouth University. As experts by experience, we bring unique perspectives, knowledge and insight to health and social science education, research and practice, leading to improved outcomes for all involved.



## Our goal

For those who are most affected by health and social inequalities to lead the way in shaping responses and improving outcomes.



# Our year in numbers 2022-2023 Collaborations with community

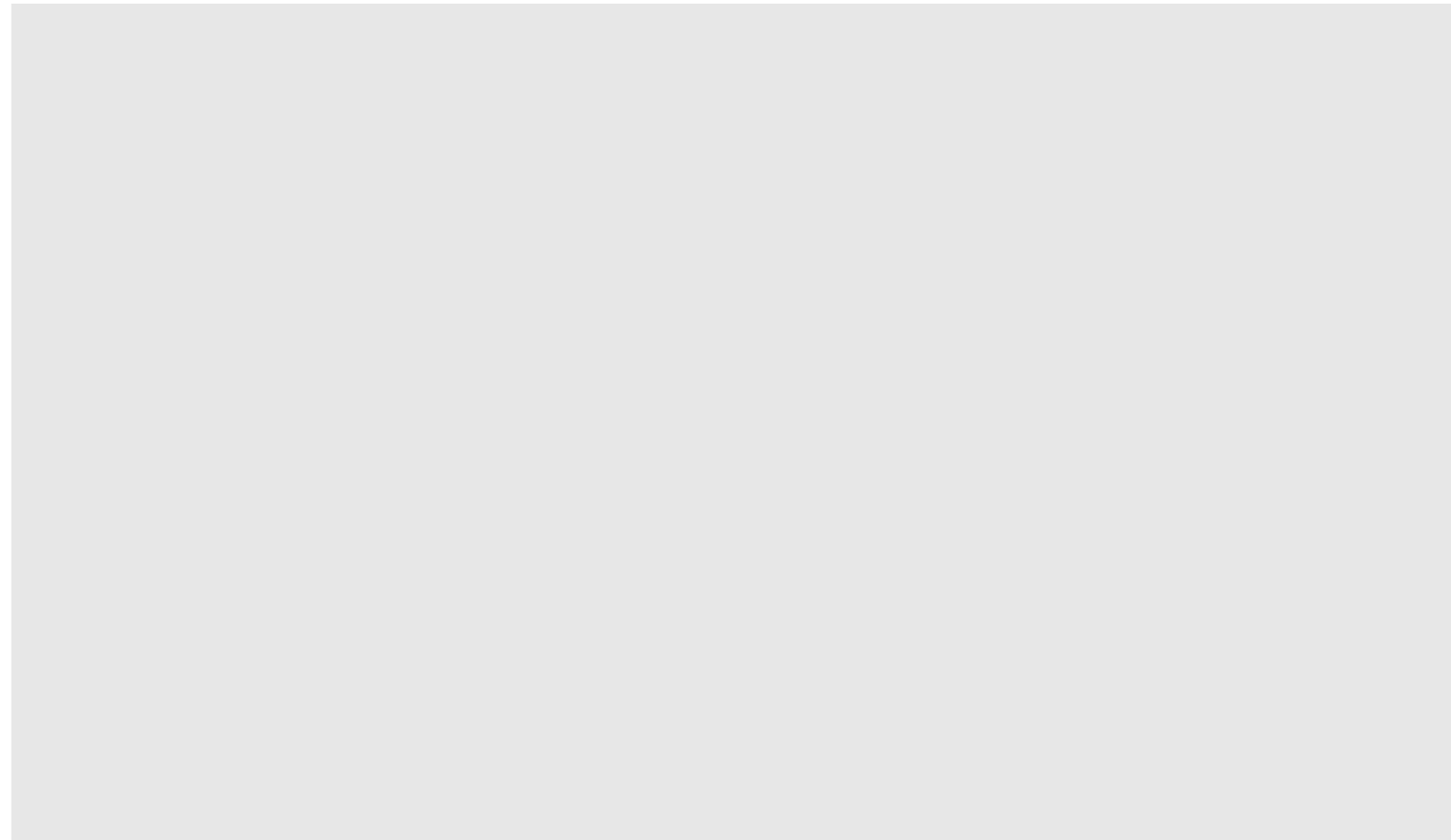
- 159 education activities we conducted
- 1,817 students we engaged with
- 51 PIER members involved
- 1,410 direct contact hours between people with lived experience and BU students and academics
- 39 academics we collaborated with
- 40 community organisations, trusts, local authorities and charities we collaborated with
- 53 research studies and funding bids we collaborated on
- 14 external events or conferences we presented at

As well as individual PIER members, PIER collaborates with a wide range of community partners both education and research. Here, we list the 40 community partners we collaborated with in 2022-23 and share three examples to shine a spotlight on in this section.

- Community partners PIER collaborated with:
- 4 Care Homes
  - Drop the Mask
  - Experiences and Food Partnership
  - Escapeline
  - BCP Age Friendly Communities
  - Healthwatch Dorset
  - BCP Poverty Truth Commission
  - Help & Care
  - Beyond Reflections
  - International Care Network (ICN)
  - Body Positive Dorset
  - Lantern Project
  - Bournemouth HealthBus Trust
  - Lymphoedema & Lipoedema Support
  - Bournemouth YMCA
  - MS Centre Dorset
  - Carers UK
  - My Time Young Carers
  - Christchurch Community Partnership
  - Over the Rainbow
  - Christchurch Foodbank
  - RNIB
  - Community Trans group
  - Serendipity
  - Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust
  - Social Work England
  - Somerford ARC
  - Dorchester Hospital
  - South Dorset Research Group
  - Dorset Advocacy
  - University Hospital Southampton
  - Dorset Blind Association
  - We are with you
  - Dorset Clinical Trials Unit
  - Wessex AHSN
  - Dorset Community Foundation
  - West Howe Community Enterprise
  - Dorset County Hospital Trust
  - Weymouth and Portland Community Research Network
  - Dorset Innovation Hub

Just some of the activities PIER members have undertaken this year:

- In-venting research ideas and designs
- Facilitating small student groups
- Reviewing research funding applications
- Co-delivering workshops and lectures
- Simulation, role plays and conversations
- Creating digital resources
- Being community researchers
- OSCEs (Objective Structured Clinical Exams)
- Delivering training sessions
- Revalidation advisory groups
- Practice portfolio readings
- Communication skills sessions
- Community placements
- Assessing practice presentations
- Co-applications on research
- Co-designing and delivering public involvement courses
- Writing book chapters
- Meeting with international partners
- Co-authoring journal papers
- Presenting at conferences



# PIER members what PIER means to me

“I love how diverse PIER has become over the years. It gives students a wide variety of life experiences they may encounter in their work.”

Sue Smith

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“I never went to uni but I like to learn so this gives me a chance to see what going to uni is like and I help teach people which is another un lled ambition. I love meeting new people and talking to them.

I like being challenged to get out of the house which is great for self-con dence.

I get to learn from other members and how the government and their charities help them.”

Karen Wye

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“PIER gives me a voice to talk about my own lived experience. A chance to help students

which is what I've always wanted to do.”

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# International involvement

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# Writing journal papers

In last year's report we shared examples of PIER members and BU academics co-authoring three journal papers on public involvement in physiotherapy education. With the aim of contributing to the growing evidence base for effective public involvement in health education, we expanded this in 2022-23 by collaborating with colleagues in Operating Department Practice (ODP) and Occupational Therapy (OT) to co-author papers with PIER members. Preetee (OT lecturer) and Julia (PIER member) reflect on this process.



"BU PIER has created a platform for sharing perspectives and valued experiences of service users within Occupational Therapy education. Curricular sessions that have been co-designed and co-delivered with PIER members within Occupational Therapy

programme are much valued by students.

With the support of Mel from PIER, I decided to reach a larger audience through writing a journal article explaining the importance of PIER partnership within Occupational Therapy education.

There is scarcity of published evidence within this domain of Occupational Therapy practice which triggered our motivation to write a reflection of our work in collaboration with a PIER member. Julia was equally keen to pen down her thoughts. We started working on our individual reflections about the session delivered. We are currently in process of compiling our work with an additional emphasis on 'importance of co-creation with PIER members and its inclusion in Occupational Therapy curriculum'. We aim to publish this work in a peer reviewed journal."

**Preetee Gokhale**  
Lecturer in Occupational Therapy



"I have been a PIER member for the past seven to eight years (e Gokhale this b739sDC )12 (f PIER par)-29.9 idohis b739sDCs.529 0.129 0.514</MCID 2b7346.783 668.97he </MCID4.67l.m1ea6(e Gokhalp (ctiv)7jri)7.1 (e be

# Involvement in professional practice

Our work to harness lived experience expertise at BU also has a positive influence on professional health and social care practice.

This year, PIER members were invited to take part in World Social Work Day on 22 March. In a time of huge challenges in the health and social care sector, the social work team chose to hold an event to share positive stories of social work. The event will provide a springboard to creating a regional repository of stories which participants will be invited to add to, and which can be shared with wider networks to promote social work and social care identity.

Carolyn and Peter (PIER members) and Ros Dray, Senior





# Collaborating on research bids

## Sarah Beasley New PIER member



“My first experience of PIER was through a zoom session to seek service user feedback on a research project into cold water therapy. I had registered my interest to be involved on the VOICE website. VOICE provide information on opportunities for service users and the

general public to be involved with current research projects. The session was facilitated by Kate (PIER Officer) and I was impressed how she facilitated the session to stimulate an interactive, engaging discussion between service users and the researchers. The research team provided information on their proposed study then sought feedback from group members on their thoughts surrounding cold water therapy. The session covered how the proposed research could be put into practice including recruitment to the study, provision of pre-study information, the implementation of the intervention and follow-up sessions. Through a carefully planned agenda, Kate ensured that everyone felt able to contribute in a supportive environment and the researchers appeared genuinely grateful for our contributions.

Following this session, I sought further information on PIER and have now been enrolled as a PIER member since September. I am excited to have the opportunity to be involved in both education of students and research projects. PIER allows me to use skills gained during my career as a physiotherapist and postgraduate MSc studies alongside my life experience as a service user, to increase research projects as well as keeping up to date with educational opportunities for health care professionals. I have been involved in research projects as a service user, to increase research projects as well as keeping up to date with educational opportunities for health care professionals. I have been involved in research projects as a service user, to increase research projects as well as keeping up to date with educational opportunities for health care professionals.



## Nutrition in care homes project

Our second example on involvement in a research bid was for an NIHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research) funding bid regarding nutrition in care homes. PIER were asked to harness lived experience expertise to ensure that the study was relevant to those it was

# Collaborating on research projects

Once a funding application is successful and a research study is underway, PIER remain involved to ensure that lived experience expertise informs all stages of the research project and that public contributors including PIER members, are supported before, during and after all activities.

One example of this has been a qualitative research study to gain insight into the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on carers which involved PIER officers Kate and Pete.

On 5th June, the 12th June, 2023, the cost-of-living crisis has impacted on carers. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis on carers has been a significant issue for many people. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis on carers has been a significant issue for many people. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis on carers has been a significant issue for many people.

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# Community-led research

We have been involved in several funded projects this year using the BU PIER Community Researcher Model where PIER provide support and mentoring to people with lived experience and community partners to conduct research as community researchers. We are finding it to be

Rosie Tansley (community researcher),  
Whatever it Takes project: Involving people in understanding cancer services for Disabled and/or neurodivergent people



"I have thoroughly enjoyed being a


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# Contact us

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