

# The Cube Evaluation Framework - for researchers

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## Introduction

There has been increasing emphasis on the need to evaluate public involvement for a number of reasons, including demonstrating impact and value for money to funders. Successful public involvement brings together people with different kinds of knowledge to work together to solve complex problems. For example, people delivering NHS services may need to work with researchers and patients to tackle an issue. These people need to be able to share their different perspectives on an equal basis so that the value of each person's contribution is understood and acknowledged.

This may sound obvious but in practice, it can be difficult to achieve. There are a number of reasons for this. Traditionally, scientific knowledge has been seen as more valuable than other forms of knowledge. Organisations are often hierarchical and are working with limited time and resources and in competition with one another. All these things can work against the possibility of creating equal working relationships between professionals and patients and the public.

So, how do we know if we have created the genuinely equal relationships that are needed to maximise the potential of public involvement? We have developed a four-dimensional framework that will allow you to map the quality of public involvement experience.

## About the Cube evaluation framework

'The Cube' is an evaluation framework that uses a digital tool to support PPI. It is an accessible, easy and enjoyable way for participants to engage in evaluation of the quality of public involvement.

The Cube presents the framework's four questions in a neat, engaging format, providing immediate visual feedback for the sliding scale-representation of how public contributors

feel about being involved in a research project. There is a space for free text comments for each question. The Cube is a group tool, and all participants in a data collection event can see each other's responses once they have completed themselves. The Cube is a digital, web based, mobile or desktop, high accessibility tooling, making it possible for a wide range of participants to engage at different times or days, to contribute to the data collection.

From the perspective of the researcher, data across time series is collated in an accessible and portable format. Different people can log in and record their responses so that a visual 'map' of involvement can be built up.

The Cube can be used in the same project at different times to identify issues, provide feedback and assess progress in addressing them. It can also be used to compare involvement between different projects or organisations.

← → ↺ arcwest.weareppi.visual.tools/cube1

## ARC West Presentation

How many different ways are there for you to get involved as a member of the public and can you influence these?

One way to be involved Many ways to be involved

enter notes here

A strong voice participates in discussions and influences decision making. A weak voice participates in discussions but has little chance of influencing decisions. Do you think you had a weak or strong voice?

Weak voice Strong voice

enter notes here

Who sets the agenda? To what extent are public concerns valued relative to organisational concerns?

Organisations concerns Public Concerns

enter notes here

To what extent has the organisation decided to, and has actually, changed as a result of involvement?

Organisation resistant to change Organisation has changed

enter notes here

Colour Profile Default

Strong Voice

Weak Voice

One

Andy Gibson is the academic lead for People in Health West of England

### Getting a Cube for your project

ARC West and ARC Oxford and Thames Valley researchers are invited to use the Cube prior to the external launch scheduled for May 2022.

To get your own Cube, please complete the [Request a Cube form](#). We will endeavour to respond to new Cube requests asap, with a predicted maximum time of 72 hours. Most of the time it will be a same-day response / new cube set-up.

## Using the Cube

Here are 2 training videos to support your use of the Cube as an administrator, and a video for Public contributors:

- [Video](#) for researchers to understand how to use the Cube admin spreadsheet
- [Video](#) for members of the public and patients that are the end-users of the framework

These videos and the digital tool itself will be upgraded over the next 2 months as we move towards 'external' launch. We are happy to run training sessions as needed.

### **Instructions for end users (to send out with a link to your Cube)**

*Follow the link above (make sure you include the correct Cube link in the email / meeting chat channel) to the 'Cube' website. When you arrive at the website, you will need to sign up. Simply click on the sign up tab, enter your e-mail address and then create a password. This is done simply to allow the system to distinguish between different people's information. The information is stored anonymously.*

*Once you have signed in you will go to the 'Cube' page.*

*You will be asked to evaluate this event along four dimensions by answering four questions using sliding scales. There is also a space to enter text in support of your rating for each question. The results will be displayed in the cube at the side of the sliders.*

*Your results will be shown in the cube and automatically saved. You do not need to click a save button.*

*Tick the box at the bottom to see other people's results from the event.*

*A video tutorial for using the Cube can be found here - [link](#)*

## Adapting the Cube to your project

The questions in the Cube are intentionally phrased in general terms. In many projects, it will be beneficial to rephrase the questions while retaining the original intent of the question. For example, question 1, 'How many different ways are there for you to get involved..?', could be rephrased to include some examples to help clarify the meaning of the question in your specific context. The word 'public' could be replaced with a name more specific to your project e.g people with diabetes or people from an afro-caribbean

background. Similarly, the word 'organisation' could be replaced with the name of your project or the organisation hosting the work. These changes are easy to make and upload to the Cube via the admin interface and the spreadsheet. They will make the Cube easier to use while maintaining the original intent of the framework.

### Technical Information

The Cube will work on most modern browsers on Desktop computers: Edge, Chrome, Firefox, Brave and Safari.

We are developing the next version of the Cube to work across more devices. If you don't have a desktop, you could try your mobile gadget – it will work on Chrome, Firefox and Brave - but you might need to have your gadget in landscape rather than horizontal.

It does not work on IE11 and Safari 5, or older than 3 or so years versions of Chrome, Firefox, Brave. It works in Safari but the image may be slightly clipped.

### Further Information

You can find out more about our approach to evaluating public involvement below.

Gibson, A., Welsman, J., & Britten, N. (2017). Evaluating patient and public involvement in health research: from theoretical model to practical workshop. *Health Expectations*, 20(5), 826-835. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.12486>

### Contact information

**Please email [cubesupport@thisequals.net](mailto:cubesupport@thisequals.net) if you have any questions or would like to discuss.**