

MANCHESTER  
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The University of Manchester



# The Benefits of Public Engagement with Research

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Platinum  
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National  
Co-ordinating  
Centre for  
Public Engagement



# Our approach to public engagement at Manchester



Public engagement is how we meaningfully **share** ideas, knowledge and research, **inspire** discussion, debate and creativity, **listen to**, **reflect on** and **work in partnership** with **diverse communities** to address societal challenges.

Our approach to engagement is underpinned by key principles of **partnership**, **collaboration**, **inclusion** and **reflection**.

Our **engaged research** brings public engagement into research design, processes and outputs - covering a wide spectrum of activities including - festivals, working with schools, citizen science, participatory research, patient involvement in research, and policy engagement.

Our Public Engagement Framework:

<https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=66939>

# Why do public engagement with research?



UKRI supports world leading research and innovation to create a more prosperous, healthy and sustainable society. Creating opportunities through **meaningful two-way engagement** for people to **discuss, create** and **participate** in research and innovation is an important way to achieve this: it makes research more **relevant, impactful** and **trusted**.

Involving the public in research **builds a sense of shared endeavour**, making it more **accessible** and **useful** for everyone.

Makes sure the benefits of research are shared widely by supporting **collaboration** and **valuing diverse forms of knowledge**.

Creates opportunities for all by **inspiring** and **engaging** the **next generation**.

# And what might be the benefits to you and your research?



Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell of The University of Manchester

There are experiments that we wouldn't have done without engagement

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell of The University of Manchester

Engaging with the public makes you think more about what you are doing and its value

Dr Paul Curzon of The University of London

The data obtained from this was used in a publication which won a best paper prize, and has opened up a novel research methodology

Dr Kelly BéruBé of Cardiff University

I won a number of national and international research accolades for which I would not have been recognised if I had not been engaging with the public on a regular basis

Professor Tom Betteridge of Oxford Brookes University

The impact on my career has been significant, giving me additional skills and experiences and providing the springboard for other research

Professor Sarah Whatmore of The University of Oxford

It has brought a lot of interest from academic, policy and civic quarters in the UK and beyond which has extended my range of contacts and led to new collaborative opportunities

Bennett Young of The University of Manchester

Public engagement re-enthused me about my research. It was fun, new and creative.

Jackie Pearson of the National Oceanography Centre

I felt that the questions from the public made the researchers stop and think as they raised issues and expressed views that otherwise might not have been considered

Professor Malcolm Eames of Cardiff University

The benefit to our research came from harnessing local knowledge to generate a distinctive research agenda for sustainability. Issues had emerged on crime, safety and community cohesion which we had not expected and these are being fed into EPSRC's programme

Professor Paddy Regan of The University of Surrey

My public engagement experiences have substantially enhanced my understanding of the links between fundamental research and the needs of UK plc.





# Example: UKRI Place-based research project: Ardwick Partnership & Air Quality



*The Ardwick partnership was about being purposeful - having both a clear science and community need and equitable involvement.*

- Prof Sheena Cruickshank

## Outcomes

- Training community researchers in the use air quality monitors **developed a better understanding** of what is happening in the local area.
- Additional **partnerships** with Manchester City Council, S4B, and the wider community, to carry out a targeting study of the specific barriers to active travel in the ward.
- The University has developed a strong place connection, **getting to know and build trust** with the different partners in the area.
- The **learning around how to best work in partnership with communities** to address poor air quality has informed future projects and policy advice including one on how you should work with communities, which has since been raised as a question in parliament.
- **Making a difference** - implementing a green route to address pollution and danger spots.



# Call to action...

Go Watch



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY9lyyxMam8>

<https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=43317>

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/bicentenary/festival-open-call/>

Go Read



Go Play



# Get in touch

## Social Responsibility Office

[engagement@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:engagement@manchester.ac.uk)

<https://www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/public-engagement/>

## FBMH Social Responsibility & Public & Patient Involvement & Engagement

[srbmh@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:srbmh@manchester.ac.uk)

<https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/bmh/social-responsibility/ppie/>

## FSE Social Responsibility – Outreach


[fse-outreach@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:fse-outreach@manchester.ac.uk)

<https://tinyurl.com/fseoutreach2324>

## FHUMS Social Responsibility

[Roz.Webster@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Roz.Webster@manchester.ac.uk)

<https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/humanities/social-responsibility/contacts/>



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## Public Engagement

An engaged university.


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At The University of Manchester, public engagement is how we share ideas and knowledge, inspire discussion, debate and creativity, and inclusively involve the public in our work.

Our commitment to public engagement is supported by our unique strategic goal of social responsibility, and is embedded in our research and teaching practices.

We also do this through work at our pioneering cultural institutions – Manchester Museum, the Whitworth, Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, and the John Rylands Research Institute and Library.

Our work to inspire high quality public engagement is reflected in our status as a Platinum Watermark institution with the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE).



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