

In the room, in the conversation

Top tips for including the patient voice in College committees.



Our goal is to create the best experience and outputs for all of our committee work with volunteers, staff and patients' voices.

College staff

YOUR ROLE:

Provide friendly, practical and consistent support for patients' voices

Kick off the Patient Voice Inclusion Step

Each time you send out committee papers or requests, work with the chair to check in with the patient voice, so that they understand the items for discussion and where their input would be especially helpful.

Explore alternatives to permanent committee membership

Not every project needs a standing patient voice. Talk to the Patient and Public Involvement Manager – there may be more impactful ways to get input.

Remove barriers

Make sure patients' voices can access meeting papers and background material. Offer help with travel and logistics so no one is out of pocket.



Committee chairs and members

YOUR ROLE:

Create space for patients' voices to contribute with confidence

Be part of the Patient Voice Inclusion Step

Support patients' voices by actively welcoming input and identifying agenda items where patient perspectives matter most ahead of meetings. Be prepared to provide explanations for complex topics if a patient perspective is required.

Make space for different kinds of expertise and perspectives

Patients' voices come with lots of skills and expertise, but they aren't anaesthetists – and that's the point. Be mindful of jargon and assumptions.

Ask what works

Some patients' voices speak up in the moment; others want time to reflect or prepare. Check in and adapt.



PatientsVoices@RCoA

YOUR ROLE:

Help the College serve the patients better

Be a patient – that's enough

You're not expected to speak for all patients. Share your own views and ask the questions others might be too shy to ask.

Use the Patient Voice Inclusion Step to prepare

Take the opportunity to talk things through with staff or chairs ahead of meetings to ensure you know where your input will be most helpful. If there is anything you don't understand or you are not sure about don't be afraid to ask.

You're not alone

Lean on fellow patients' voices and the Patient and Public Involvement Manager for support and advice.

