



Data Sharing and Public Benefit workshop

Dear Colleague

Involve, the UK's leading experts in public participation, in partnership with GM Connect would like to invite you to a workshop exploring the tensions between public benefit and the risks to individual privacy involved in data sharing at a local level.

The workshop will take place from 10am – 4pm on Wednesday 28th June at Kings House, Sidney St, Manchester M1 7HB.

The sharing of personal data between organisations and departments delivering public services is heralded as one of the key tools for transforming public services and making them more responsive to the public. Considerable work is therefore being done to ensure that better use is made of the data held by public service providers, both to ensure services are effectively targeted for individuals and in the wider public interest.

While there has been much discussion and debate about the technical capacity of organisations to securely share data, and the legal basis on which to do so, there has been far less discussion about what constitutes public benefit, and to what extent the public are supportive of the different types of data held about them being shared for these purposes.

This workshop will bring together senior policy makers and practice leaders, from the voluntary sector and government across Greater Manchester, to explore the purpose and benefits of information sharing between service providers: focusing on the health and social care, housing, welfare and criminal justice sectors.

The workshop will help you to better understand how different groups (public service providers, voluntary sector organisations and advocacy groups) make sense of, and balance, the trade-offs inherent in data sharing; specifically between public and individual benefit, and privacy and security. It will provide you with a framework for continuing these discussions in Greater Manchester to inform the ongoing development of data sharing policies and practices at a local level, while also contributing to the wider nation debate.

We anticipate that interest in attending this workshop will be high, and therefore ask you to express your interest in attending by **Friday 26th May** using this [link](#). Places in the workshop are limited and, to ensure there is a balance of public and voluntary sector leaders from across the service areas represented, places will be confirmed 3 weeks prior to the event. At this point, we will also send delegates an agenda for the day and a short background briefing.

This workshop is one of a series of events organised by Involve, the Carnegie UK Trust and Understanding Patient Data at Wellcome, taking place in local authority areas across England to open-up a fruitful conversation between government and civil society about the public benefits of data sharing. For more information please visit our [project page](#).

If you have any questions about the workshop, or would like any further information at this stage please contact Susan Lassenen Susan@involve.org.uk or Kaela Scott Kaela@involve.org.uk or call 0131 2810891.

Regards,

Tim Hughes
Director, Involve

