

**UNDERSTANDING ETHICS PROCEDURES**

**Community-based Participatory Research**

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is an approach that involves members of a community participating in the research and development of outcomes. Community members may engage in the process at all stages, from formulating the research question, designing the process and developing the research tools, through data collection e.g. interviews, focus groups and surveys, to data analysis and dissemination. By involving community members throughout the research process, opportunities to test and challenge the validity and accuracy of the research are created. Research approaches of this nature may lead to the use of research outcomes to make changes in the participants own communities.

A community-based participatory research approach requires a high level of contact and interaction between the researchers and those in the community, i.e. the research subjects, and is based on a commitment to sharing power and resources and working towards beneficial outcomes for all participants. It can often lead to the blurring of boundaries between researchers and research subjects and consequently can generate specific challenges to enforce sound ethical practice. It is essential, therefore, that researchers understand the complexities of CBPR and ensure strict systems are in place for robust and responsible ethical conduct.

Further guidance on ethical principles and practice in CBPR can be found on the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement at this link:

<https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/resources/guide/community-based-participatory-research-guide-ethical-principles-and-practice>