



Consumer and community Participation Fact Sheet T03: Ladder of participation

Being clear about the level of participation you are seeking is very important. It helps you understand what you are aiming for, and in turn enables consumers and community members to make an informed decision about whether or not they want to work with you.

Using a ladder, as shown below, can help to illustrate the levels of consumer and community participation. It can also be shown as a continuum where there are no clear steps but a gradual change from low to high level as modelled by INVOLVE. www.invo.org.uk. Using either model can be helpful in identifying and explaining the level of participation that is planned for a research project.

The Ladder of Participation

HIGH

LOW



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