

Wessex SDE PPIE Impact Overview

March 2026

Summary

This report highlights the impact of Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) within the Wessex Secure Data Environment (SDE) between January-March 2026. Through our Digital Critical Friends (DCFs), members of the public have played an active role in shaping how the SDE is governed, how it communicates, and how it builds trust in the responsible use of health data.

Public contributors continue to provide insight, challenge, and lived experience across a wide range of activities, including Data Access Committee and Board meetings, national events, and the development of public-facing communications. Their feedback has directly informed improvements to transparency, accessibility, and accountability, including changes to our website and how we explain our work to different audiences.

This work demonstrates our commitment to embedding public voices in decision-making and ensuring that the use of health data delivers clear public benefit, is well governed, and remains worthy of public trust.

Month	Public engaged	Activity	Outcome / Impact
January	7 DCFs	Town Hall	Our Town Hall sessions provide overarching views of all the work that is happening across the SDE and how the DCFs can be best engaged to add value and reflect their insights and lived experience.
January	4 DCFs plus 3 SDE Team	Media Training	Our 'Ambassador group' of DCFs were joined by members of the SDE team to receive dedicated media training, including practicing video interviews and preparation. The video's will be used by the SDE on our website and for other comms/PPIE

January	2 DCFs	Board	Monthly meetings as part of the SDE's standing operational governance
January	3 DCFs	Data Access Committee	Monthly meetings as part of the SDE's standing operational governance
February	2 DCFs	Board	Monthly meetings as part of the SDE's standing operational governance
February	3 DCFs	Data Access Committee	Monthly meetings as part of the SDE's standing operational governance
March	4 DCFs (plus 9)	HRA Amendment	DCFs completed a desktop review of our December HRA amendment request, providing commentary on the suggested changes to policy, process and public notification. They then presented their work at the Town Hall.
March	9 DCFs	Town Hall	This session focused on a review of the SDE's study pipeline, their comments have been captured. Actions to address these will be agreed at the next Town Hall. The DCF group also received an update from the HRA group regarding the update that they reviewed, providing an opportunity to ask further questions and constructive challenge.
March	3 DCFs	NHSE Interviews	3 DCFs were interviewed by the NHS England team about their experiences and create quotes for future communications.
March	2 DCFs	Board	Monthly meetings as part of the SDE's standing operational governance
March	3 DCFs	Data Access Committee	Monthly meetings as part of the SDE's standing operational governance
March	2 DCFs	SDE key messaging review	Review and co-design of our approach to managing and responding to sensitive issues.

Feb – March	c. 30 Seldom Heard	Seldom Heard Groups (SHG) engagement	Round 2 of our SHG engagement is in process and due to be completed in April.
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Overview

PPIE is a core part of how the Wessex SDE operates. It ensures that decisions about the use of health data are informed not only by technical and clinical expertise, but also by public values, expectations, and lived experience.

Our DCFs are embedded across the SDE’s governance and engagement activity. They contribute to strategic discussions, review policies and public-facing materials, participate in Data Access Committee and Board meetings, and represent the public voice at regional and national events. This role is not advisory in name only; DCF insight actively shapes how we work and how we improve.

Over the reporting period, DCFs have helped us reflect on public trust, data bias, transparency, and communication. Their challenge has influenced how we explain complex topics such as data use, artificial intelligence, and governance, ensuring that our messaging is clearer, inclusive, and more accessible.

This ongoing dialogue helps the SDE remain accountable to the communities it serves. By listening to and acting on public feedback, we strengthen confidence in how health data is used, improve the quality of our decisions, and ensure that public benefit remains at the centre of our work.
