

A guide to

Personal and Public Involvement (PPI)



Speaking the same language

Health and Social Care (HSC) is a large and varied system. Over time, we have developed a habit of shortening words into abbreviations and using acronyms to shorten phrases in ways that are easier to remember and say.

This guide aims to create greater clarity around the language used in your work with Service Users and Carers. The first part of this guide is a list of terms used by the HSC with an explanation of the meaning.

Each piece of work will use different terms, for example, the name of a service or drug.

The second part of this guide is a blank template that you can use to record any words or phrases used in your specific area of work.

Health and Social Care organisations/bodies

Term used in HSC	What it means
WHST	Western Health and Social Care Trust
BHST	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
NHST	Northern Health and Social Care Trust
SHST	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
SEHST	South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
PHA	Public Health Agency
DoH	Department of Health
SPPG	Strategic Planning and Performance Group
BSO	Business Services Organisation
NIAS	Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

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Term used in HSC	What it means
NIBTS	Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service
NIGALA	Northern Ireland Guardian Ad Litem Service
NIMDTA	Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency
NIPEC	Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council
NISCC	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
RQIA	Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
PCC	Patient Client Council

Professional Groups

Term used in HSC	What it means
AHP	Allied Health Professionals
HLC Alliance	Health Living Centre Alliance
IHI	Institute for Healthcare Improvement
NICaN	Northern Ireland Cancer Network
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NICHs	Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke
NICR	Northern Ireland Cancer Registry
NIHR	National Institute for Health Research
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NICVA	Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action
NIFRS	Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
NIPSA	Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance
NISAT	Northern Ireland Single Assessment Tool – for use when planning home care for older people
NMTG	Nursing Midwifery Task Group

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Some areas of work/programmes

Term used in HSC	What it means
ICP	Integrated Care Partnerships
LNG	Locality Network Group – Unscheduled Care
SAG	Strategic Accountability Group – Unscheduled Care
LCG	Local Commissioning Group
MLB	Making life better
RPA	Review of Public Administration
TIG	Transformation Implementation Group (Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together)
TYC	Transforming Your Care
USC	Unscheduled Care
IHRD	Inquiry into Hyponatraemia Related Deaths
LD	Learning Disability
PPI	Personal and Public Involvement
NHS	National Health Service
ED	Emergency Department
GP	General Practitioner
IP	Inpatient
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
LGBTQIA	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual , Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual Sexual
CMO	Chief Medical Officer
CNO	Chief Nursing Officer
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
OBA	Outcomes Based Accountability

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Term used in HSC	What it means
PD	Physical Disability
PfG	Programme for Government
QOF	Quality and Outcomes Framework
R&D	Research and Development
TDP	Trust Delivery Plan
MDT	Multidisciplinary Team

Other acronyms or abbreviations

Use the template attached to list other acronyms or abbreviations. It is best to do this with Service Users and Carers involved in your work. It would be helpful to:

- Work with Service Users, Carers and staff to agree this list.
- Give each person involved a copy of this list.
- Regularly update the list with new words or terms.

Term used in HSC	What it means

For more information on Involvement, Co-Production and Partnership Working
please visit the Engage website <http://engage.hscni.net>

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