



SCAN ME

## Introduction & Background

One in two of us will have a significant hearing loss in older life, and this can affect every aspect of communication and daily life. There is no cure, but people with hearing loss are offered a hearing aid. Little is known about the patient experience of using hearing aids so there is a risk they are prescribed to people who do not use them. People may stop using hearing aids because they find practical management and adapting to new sound difficult. For some, managing the aids is more difficult than managing hearing loss without hearing aids.

Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMs) are simple questionnaires about specific conditions. An audiology PREM could be used to understand patients' experiences of hearing loss and using hearing health services, and the efforts they make to manage their hearing. Audiology services vary throughout the UK and a PREM would provide us with more information about the experience of audiology patients.

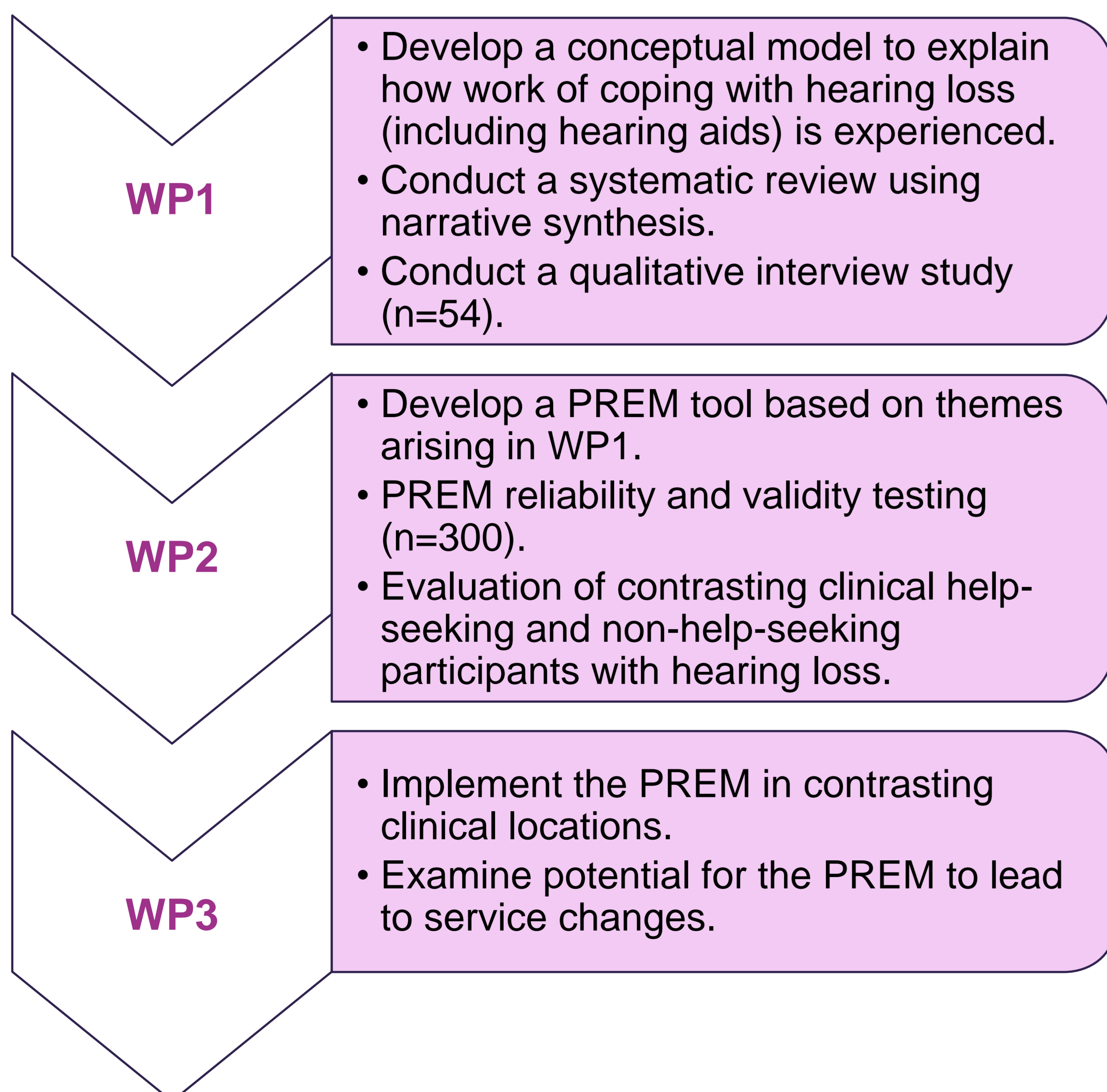


HeLP study logo

**Aim:** To improve knowledge of adult patient experience of hearing loss and hearing services (audiology).

## Methods

This research consists of three linked studies called work packages (WP). These WPs will run at parallel time points over the 3 years e.g. WP 3 implementation interviews will begin in year 1 alongside WP 1 and continue into year 2.

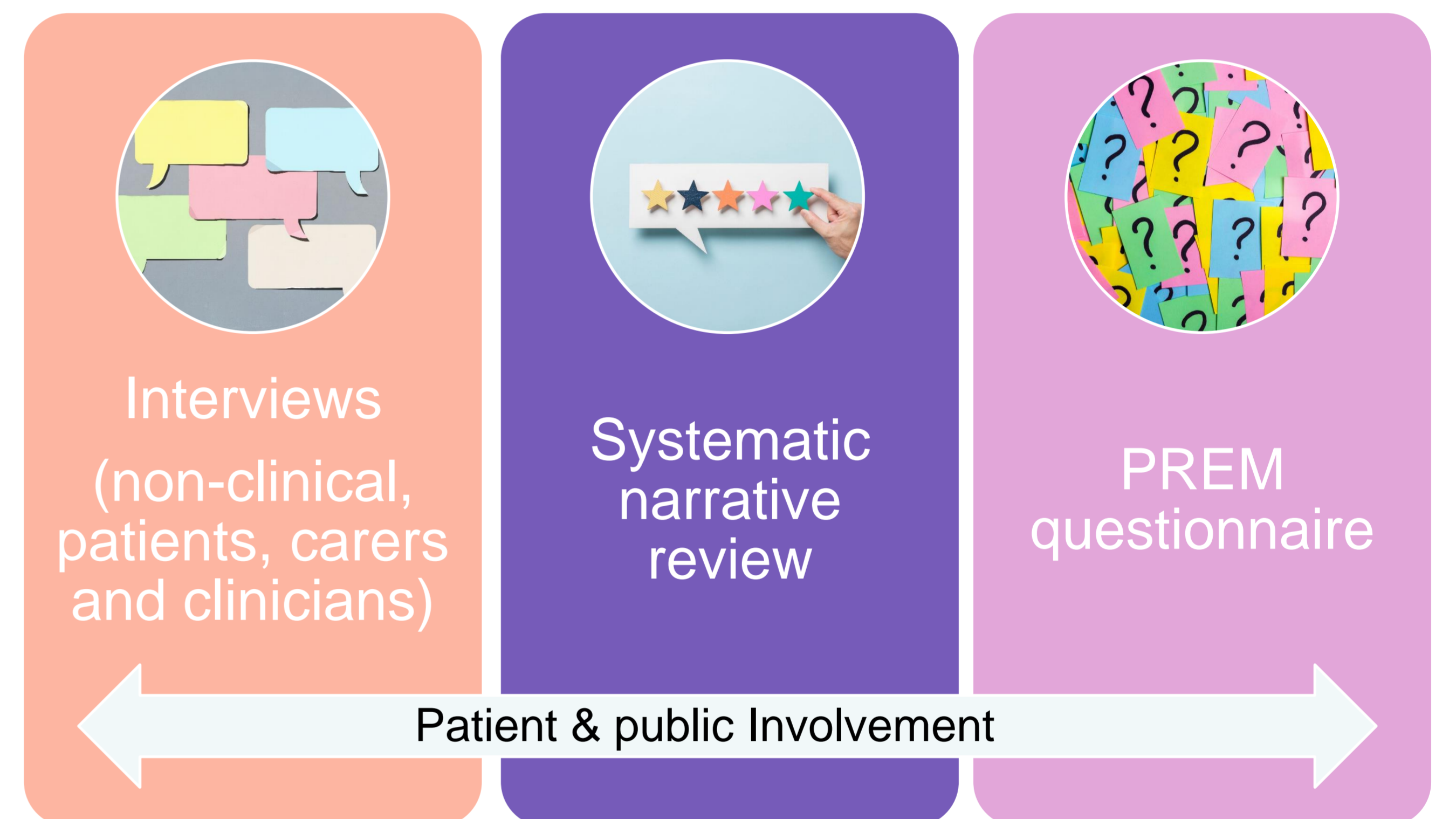


The Sample is stratified to ensure we learn about the experience of hearing loss and using hearing aids (or not) throughout the life course. To do this, we have included:

- Young adults: transitioning from paediatric to adult services
- 30s-40s: those managing a career and family life
- 50s-70s: Noticing hearing loss symptoms for the first time
- 80s - end of life: Most likely to have hearing loss.

## Progress to date

- Start date: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022
- Interviews have been conducted with:
  - People with hearing loss (accessed via audiology sites and non-clinical routes (n= 15; ongoing)
  - Relatives/carers of people living with hearing loss
  - Clinicians.
- Coding of the data gathers has begun
- Narrative review
  - search strategy developed, search conducted, and full-text screening underway.
- PREM
  - Interviews with clinicians to get their opinions on implementing a PREM in practice. Tool to be developed once WP1 is completed.
- Patient and public involvement contributors will continue to contribute advice, guidance and steering at every stage of the research process.



## Next Steps...

- Complete the narrative review and continue conducting interviews
- Analyse interview data & develop conceptual model to understand the work of coping with hearing loss
- Continue working with PPI contributors
- Develop PREM to complement existing outcome measures in practice
- Continue interviews with clinicians about PREM implementation.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of those who have show interest and contributed to this research to date, your input has been invaluable.

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**Sponsor:** University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust, Research and Innovation, Level 3, UH Bristol Education and Research Centre, Upper Maudlin Street, Bristol BS2 8AE.



For updates follow us on twitter:  
@HELPAstonHear



**Author Contact Details:**  
audiology\_helpstudy@aston.ac.uk  
<https://research.aston.ac.uk/en/persons/helen-pryce>