# ConnectED

# **Connect**ing **E**vidence with **D**ecision-Making

***Q:***Have you received services from Adult Social Care in the Council, or from a local organisation because you needed care or support for an area of your life?

***Q:***Have you supported somebody else who has received these services?

***Q:*** Are you a member of a community organisation that supports people?

***Q:***Could you help decision-makers in organisations to make better decisions about Adult Social Care services?

Then be involved in the ConnectED study and help us all to get better at using research to improve outcomes for service users and carers.

ConnectED

The ConnectED study is a partnership between the University of Bristol, three local authorities (Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council) and two health and social care agencies (Sirona and Dhek Bhal).

It is a project that aims to help decision-makers in Adult Social Care make better decisions by developing their ability to use research. Decision-makers include practitioners, managers, commissioners and service users and carers themselves.

## How are we going to do that?

We are going to place a researcher in each of our partner agencies. They will work to find and use relevant research with social care staff and people who have received services and developed expertise from their personal experiences. We are going to call these collaborations ‘Research Practice Partnerships’, or ‘RPPs’ for short. Together, the RPPs will:

* Identify areas where research would be useful
* Help to find relevant research and decide what it means for adult social care
* Identify gaps in research
* Work on small research projects
* Help social care staff to do more research
* Help researchers and academics, and service users and carers, to have a better understanding of what research is needed

By working closely together on issues that matter, the RPPs will help to make research more useful for staff that provide services, service users and carers.

## Who are we looking for?

We are looking for experts by experience (of using social care services, or supporting somebody who does use them) to help in one of two ways:

* as members of our Service User and Carer Advisory Group
* as members of the Experts by Experience panel to contribute to the work of the ‘Research Practice Partnerships’

Contributors will be paid for their contributions, refreshments provided and travel expenses. You will also have access to training opportunities and workshops as part of the project.

## The Service User and Carer Advisory Group

We are looking for up to 12 people to serve on the Service User and Carer Advisory Group (SUCAG) throughout the 3.5 years of the ConnectED project.

SUCAG Meetings will be held four times a year.

The Group will receive reports and give advice to them at each stage of the process. This will include:

* advising on research materials to ensure they are accessible and acceptable. For example, recruitment materials for research participants, and written and training outputs from the site teams.
* making suggestions on challenges that may be faced
* contributing to the analysis of findings

Two members of the Service User and Carer Advisory Group will represent the Group on the ConnectED Project Programme Board, one as a Co-chair.

## Bringing Expertise from Experiences to the Research Practice Partnerships

We are also looking for people to join a pool of experts by experience covering all aspects of adult social care. For example, people who have used services for, or supported, older people, disabled people, or adults with a mental health difficulty or a learning disability.

Members of the panel will be called upon from time to time to join a Research Practice Partnership for a particular piece of work that reflects their area of interests and expertise.

## Are you interested?

## Then please fill in the form to tell us more and come to one of our Taster Meetings to find out what would be involved and if it would be right for you:

## Monday 24th January, 3.00 – 5.00pm ([Zoom link here](https://bristol-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/91612193341?pwd=SHFyMVMrZkR1UHAxcnczeXlnTFZQZz09))

## Thursday 3rd February, 12.00 – 2.00pm ([Zoom link here](https://bristol-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/96296637225?pwd=a0FBamVRNUhNSURxTXJXR2lIY3Jrdz09))