# ConnectED

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

FURTHER INFORMATION about the roles that we are looking for:

## The Service User and Carer Advisory Group (SUCAG)

Role This group is one of the two groups overseeing the work of the ConnectED project. The Group will provide expert opinion and advice on each aspect of the project, throughout its life of 3.5 years.

Membership In order to ensure there is a broad range of perspectives, members will be selected based on their expertise in different fields of Adult Social Care *e.g.* adult mental health, older adults, dementia, carers, physical disability, intellectual/learning disability.

Panel members will be recruited from areas served by all the project partners, including:

* the three local authorities: Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
* Sirona
* Dhek Bhal
* and other local community support organisations.

Membership of the SUCAG is open to those who have experience of adult social care services, carers, and representatives from community support organisations.

Expectations Members of the Advisory Group will be expected to attend four meetings a year, and to have prepared thoroughly for each meeting by reading papers in advance. These will be circulated at least one working week prior to each meeting.

Members of the SUCAG will elect a Chair and the Chair. One other member of the Group will attend each member of the ConnectED Programme Board (see below\*\*). This is the Board that has overall oversight of the project, and its membership is set out below, together with its overall purpose. The Board will be co-chaired with a member of the Service User and Carer Advisory Group.

Payment Members of the Service User and Carer Advisory Group will be offered £75 per meeting (including two hours meeting time plus preparation), for meetings of both the Service User and Carer Advisory Group and for meetings of the Programme Board. Individual arrangements for payments can be made and travel expenses and refreshments (where appropriate) will also be provided.

## The Experts by Experience Panel

Role The experts by experience panel will provide a source of experts to work alongside practitioners and researchers as full members of the Research Practice Partnerships (RPPs) in each agency. At the outset, the Partnerships will assume the primary responsibility for identifying and appraising relevant research, initially sourced by the researcher.

All three members of each of the Research Practice Partnerships (the University based researcher, the local Evidence Champion, and the Expert by Experience) will work together so that the research findings can be used to improve how social care staff work with people effectively.

This approach recognises that social care work is complicated and needs to be done in a delicate and sensitive manner, in cooperation with those receiving the service. How research is interpreted and used must reflect this complexity.

The view of experts by experience is important in assessing the relevance of research to their lived experience. The Partnerships will therefore work in a way that is designed to ensure that both the research and the way it is put into practice are always clearly focussed on the needs and perspectives of service users and carers.

Later in the project, members of the experts by experience panel will:

* help to identify the most important areas to research,
* help to plan and deliver workshops for training social care staff to make better use of research
* help to decide how services should be evaluated
* lastly, help design ways to find out how useful the ConnectED project has been

Membership As with the Service User and Carer Advisory Group, the Experts by Experience Panel will also cover a broad range of perspectives, ensuring that we can bring relevant expertise to bear across the different fields of Adult Social Care *e.g.,* adult mental health, older adults, dementia, carers, physical disability, intellectual/learning disability.

Panel members will be recruited from areas served by all the project partners, including the three local authorities, Sirona and Dhek Bhal, and community support organisations. Membership is open to those who have experience of receiving adult social care services, carers, and representatives from community support organisations.

Expectations Experts by Experience Panel members will be expected to contribute to at least ONE Research Practice Partnerships project in the lifetime of the 42-month project. Because each agency will decide what areas of social care it want to focus on, we cannot say exactly when individual panel members will be invited to join an RPP.

Payment When working with an RPP, panel members will be funded to commit to half a day per month for the duration of the work, with a payment of £75 per month. The time may be used flexibly in discussion with the other members of the site-based team.

Additional payments will be made for the workshops at a rate of £75 per half day workshop, plus £75 for half day preparation time.

Individual arrangements for payments can be made. Travel expenses and refreshments (where appropriate) will also be provided.

## Requirements

We are looking for people who have experience of using social care services, or of supporting somebody who has, or representatives from community organisations in the social care field.

You will have an interest in using your own experiences to influence decisions that will have benefits for others using a similar service in future.

You should have an interest in research and be able to prepare for and contribute to research meetings.

Previous experience in research projects will be helpful but it is not a requirement and training will be provided in different aspects of research.

## \*\*The Programme Board

The other Group involving experts from experience is the ConnectED Programme Board, which is made up of representatives of the agency partners (see above) and the Service Users and Carer Advisory Group (or SUCAG). This Board will be chaired jointly by Hugh Evans, Director of People in Bristol and a member of the SUCAG. The Board will meet four times a year to oversee the project, share what is working well, and identify the most important areas to research and other work. It will receive reports every three months from the Researchers in Residence and the lead researchers on the project from the University.