

Early Psychosis Research Group

PPI Representative Role



Role description: Patient & Carer members of Early Psychosis Research Group

Contact details and information about how to send us an expression of interest for the role are included at the end this document.

Background

The Early Psychosis Research Group (EPRG) is a research group from the University of Oxford Department of Psychiatry who study the causes and course of illness and the treatments for people who are experiencing or who have recently experienced a first episode of a psychotic illness.

Our group are interested in many different topics related to psychotic illnesses, such as investigating the role of immune system or gut bacteria in psychotic symptoms, investigating ways to improve the physical health for people with psychosis, and looking into how best we can provide early treatment and organise community mental health services for people with psychosis.

We are looking for patient and carer representatives to join our group, to help us develop and run our research studies by giving us your views on them. We are particularly interested in recruiting people who have experienced psychosis or who care for someone who has.

Your responsibilities

- To attend an initial welcome meeting in Oxford to decide on terms of reference for the PPI group.
- To be available to contribute to at least one research study a year by reading and commenting on funding applications, study designs and materials, and study dissemination.
- Be comfortable discussing a range of topics related to mental health and mental health treatments (including biological, psychological, and social treatments).
- Be available to travel to Oxford to attend meetings*.

*Meetings are held at the Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital, Oxford. Not all research projects will require you to attend meetings and there will be a maximum of four meetings a year per research study. Some meetings could be attended remotely through video or telephone conferencing. All travel expenses accrued to attend meetings will be reimbursed.

Our responsibilities

- To work with you to identify and provide the support that you would like to help you to carry out the role. For example, this might be an initial meeting, and/or a named contact; time outside of the meeting to discuss topics to enable you to contribute in the meetings.
- To provide the necessary paperwork and tasks within a reasonable time to allow you to complete the required work on them.

Duration of role

It is anticipated that members will be asked to commit to their role in the group for 12 months in the first instance, to be reviewed at the end of that period.

Payment and expenses

- We will reimburse you for any travel and/or carer-related expenses that you might incur in fulfilling your role. We will discuss these with you in advance of the first meeting that you attend, together with the process for making a claim.
- In addition, we offer reimbursement for your time at the rate of £50 per meeting (to include preparation and follow-up): it is your choice whether to accept this or not. We will also provide reimbursement for any other work that you do for us, such as reviewing study documents and materials - according to the Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) guidelines for patient and public involvement. You can see payment policy on the BRC website: https://oxfordhealthbrc.nihr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/OHBRCCRF_PPIPaymentPolicy_forResearchers_FINAL-Update-Sept18.pdf

Please note that if you are receiving state benefits, a pension, pension credits, tax credits or are liable for income tax and National Insurance, receiving any form of payment may affect you. See more information on the INVOLVE website: <http://www.invo.org.uk/posttypepublication/what-you-need-to-know-aboutpayment-2/>

The NIHR provides access to a Benefits Advice Service (NB. they cannot advise regarding tax and National Insurance). We urge you to contact them to seek their guidance as we cannot provide this advice. You can see more information on the [INVOLVE website](#) or contact INVOLVE who will explain how to access the service (email involve@nihr.ac.uk, phone 02380 595628 and tell them you are involved with the Oxford Health BRC).

Person Specification

Criteria	Attributes
Experience	<p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has experience of psychotic illness either as a patient or a carer. <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has experience of Early Intervention in Psychosis teams. Is currently under the caseload of an Early Intervention Team or has been under the caseload of an Early Intervention team within the last three years.
Knowledge	<p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the range of different approaches to investigating and treating psychosis - including biological, psychological and social approaches Has some understanding of how research is conducted in a health setting (although training can be provided).
Skills and Personal Qualities	<p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to manage and plan your own time. The commitment to attend meetings as agreed (medical condition allowing). The commitment to prepare for meetings by reading information sent to you in advance. To give and maintain a firm commitment to keep our research confidential and declare any conflicts of interest if they arise. <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to confidently express your views either through written feedback or at meetings attended by a range of professionals. Ability to keep asking questions until you get enough information or an explanation to fully understand what people are talking about. A willingness to listen to, and consider, different perspectives and opinions An ability to challenge current thinking in ways that are both creative and supportive.
Other	<p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lives within a 90 minute travel radius (public transport) from Oxford.

Contact details

If you would like to be considered for this role, please send an Expression of Interest to Stephen.puntis@psych.ox.ac.uk.

In this expression of interest, please leave your name, and a short (one or two paragraphs) description of how you fit the person specification for this role, and a contact number or email address.

If you have any questions about the role, or about applying, please don't hesitate to contact Stephen.puntis@psych.ox.ac.uk or 01865 613145.

The deadline for submitting your Expression of Interest is 5/4/2019, but we encourage you to get in touch as soon as possible if you are interested. We may wish to arrange to speak with you on the phone after receiving your Expression of Interest.