UCL DIVISION OF PSYCHIATRY

**Co-Production Group: Finch Study**

**Role Description**

**Background to the Finch Study**

The Finch Study is a research project funded through the National Institute for Health Research Policy Research Programme. It is led by Professor Sonia Johnson and Dr Bryn Lloyd-Evans at University College London and involves research sites in London and Lancashire. Professor Fiona Lobban is the Lancashire lead for the study.

The Finch study will develop and test a programme intended to prevent people who have been detained in a mental health hospital (“sectioned”) from being “sectioned again” with the aim of preventing repeat detentions. Phase 1 of the study will involve interviewing staff and patients in inpatient wards and adapting a programme which has been tested successfully in a study conducted in Switzerland, for use in English inpatient wards, with a view to making sure it is appropriate for people from backgrounds at high risk of being “sectioned”. Phase 2 will involve a small randomised controlled trial to test whether the programme can be successfully delivered, whether service users and staff see it as helpful, and whether it is suitable for being tested in a large trial.

The Finch Study will run from early 2021 until late 2023.

**Involvement of staff working in mental health services, service users, and carers:**

Throughout the study, Finch will involve a Co-Production Group of people with experience of using mental health services, or carer experience, staff working in mental health services, and researchers.

We are looking for about four staff from different services and different professions with experience of working with people who have been detained under the mental health act to be part of the Co-Production Group.

The Co-Production Group will help ensure that the voices of service users, carers and staff working in mental health services are heard at all stages of the study. The Co-Production Group members will contribute to developing the study intervention and planning the trial.

Co-Production Group members are not expected to represent any group of service users or carers, or the views of any other organisation of which they are a member.

**Role of the Finch Study Co-Production Group**

Co-Production Group activities will be coordinated by Patrick Nyikavaranda, the study involvement lead, and Mary Birken, the senior researcher working on the study. Meetings will also be attended whenever possible by the study lead and co-lead, Prof. Sonia Johnson and Dr Brynmor Lloyd-Evans, and other staff working in mental health services and research staff will also participate, including the psychology lead, Dr Lisa Wood.

The Co-Production Group does not have responsibility for oversight or governance of the Finch Study. We will be aiming to work in a spirit of coproduction throughout the study and the Co-Production Group can contribute to planning and running all stages of the Finch study. However, as our contract requires, final decisions will be made by the study management team, in consultation where needed with the funders (the National Institute for Health Research on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care).

**Membership and activities of the Co-Production Group**

Twelve people will be recruited as Co-Production Group members; including people with experience of using services, family members or close friends who support people who use services, staff working in mental health services and researchers.

Core activities of the Co-Production Group will include attendance at up to 15 two hour - half-day meetings per year and some review of study documents by email between meetings. For members of the group who are staff working in mental health services the commitment would be six-eight meetings focusing on the adaptation of the study intervention between June and October 2021. The Co-Production Group will continue to meet regularly but less frequently up to the end of the study period in late 2023.

We anticipate many if not all Co-Production Group meetings will be conducted remotely via videoconference and will take place on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoon of the month, 2.30pm-4pm or 3pm-4.30pm until about August 2021 and meet less frequently after that.

The types of activities Co-Production Group members may be asked to undertake include:

* Helping make sure we are taking an approach that is likely to engage people from ethnic backgrounds at high risk of being “sectioned”.
* Contributing to the development of study information sheets or topic guides
* Reviewing study protocols, interview guides, data collection tools and information sheets
* The opportunity to be involved in writing up papers relating to the study for publication.

**Expenses**

Travel expenses to and from meetings will be reimbursed in addition to payments, although we anticipate most meetings are by video call.

As a thank you for contributing to the Co-Production Group, we will give staff a £100 gift voucher at the end of their involvement. We will offer this to staff who contribute throughout the intervention development process.

Interested in joining the Co-Production Group

For an informal discussion or more information about joining the Co-production Group, in the first instance please contact the Finch Study senior researcher **Mary Birken:** [**m.birken@ucl.ac.uk**](mailto:m.birken@ucl.ac.uk)