



**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BIRMINGHAM**

## **The contribution of the voluntary sector to mental health crisis care in England**

**REC reference number: 18/WS/0022**

Participant Information Sheet

**January 19<sup>th</sup> 2018**

We invite you to take part in a research study. Below is some information about why this research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read this and talk to others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

### **Background**

This research is being funded by the National Institute for Health Research. Research and national reports have shown that access to the right kind of support at the right time for people in a mental health crisis can be a problem. Some people, also, avoid seeking help because of fears related to hospital admission or poor treatment, which can result in involuntary detention under the Mental Health Act. As a result, the voluntary sector, also referred to as the third sector, provides support for people in a mental health crisis. It is not currently well understood how widely available these different types of crisis support are, what they provide and how they fit with the crisis services offered by the NHS or Local Authority.

### **What is the purpose of the study?**

The main aim of this study is to investigate the range of crisis support offered by voluntary sector organisations in England and the role they play in supporting people in a mental health crisis. Based on our findings, we aim to make recommendations about

what needs to happen for NHS and Local Authority crisis services to work with voluntary sector services better. This information will be of value to people experiencing a mental health crisis, their families, the voluntary sector, commissioners, mental health service providers and policy makers.

### **Why have I been invited?**

We understand that you or a family member, or someone you care for, has experienced a mental health crisis and has used voluntary sector or mental health services. We would like to invite you to take part in a focus group because you have experience that is relevant to our study.

### **Do I have to take part?**

Your agreement to take part in the study is entirely voluntary, and you can choose to withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you agree to take part then:

- You will join 8 or 9 other people to form a focus group. You will either be in a group made up of service users or carers/family members.
- Two researchers will facilitate a group discussion and they will ask you about your experience of accessing and using voluntary services for support in a mental health crisis.
- This information will allow us to identify how voluntary sector services are contributing to the care of people experiencing a mental health crisis.
- The group discussion will last for about two hours.

The discussion conducted in the focus groups will be tape recorded to allow us to analyse the information in more detail later. This tape recorded discussion will be transcribed, by a professional transcription service, into a written text for data analysis and the tape then will be erased.

- At the end of the focus group you will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire so that we have basic information about who took part in the focus group. You do not need to give us your name and you can still take part in the focus group even if you do not want to complete the questionnaire.

*You will receive payment for reasonable expenses in getting to the focus group and £15 as a 'thank you' for your time.*

**What are the possible disadvantages, risks and side-effects of taking part?**

No disadvantages, risks or side-effects related to taking part in the focus groups have been identified.

**Are there any benefits to taking part?**

The information we receive through this study will be used to help improve the support for people experiencing a mental health crisis and their families, and or carers.

**Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

We can reassure you that everything you tell us will be completely confidential. No information that can identify you will be passed on to anyone outside the research team or be contained in the final report or any other publication. However please note we cannot guarantee anonymity and confidentiality on part of the other focus group members. We ask that all focus group members do keep what they hear confidential. Only members of the research team will hear the tape or read the transcript of the tape. The recordings will be erased once the data has been analysed. The collected data will be securely stored for ten years on a University of Birmingham computer. Any information we put on to the computer will be protected with a password known only to members of the research team.

The data may be looked at by sponsor representatives NHS Trust that has approved this research or regulatory authorities for audit purposes.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

A summary of the findings will be produced and sent to all the research participants and be written up as a report to the National Institute for Health Research, who have funded this research. The results of the study will also be presented at conferences and other meetings and published in journals. However, we will not use your name in any publication. Nothing that can identify you will be published or talked about.

**Who has given permission for the study to go ahead?**

The West of Scotland Research Ethics Committee 4, the Health Research Authority and the Ethics Committee at the University of Birmingham have given ethical approval for this study to go ahead.

**Who is the research team?**

The research team is led by Dr Karen Newbigging from the Health Services Management Centre at the University of Birmingham. The research is being undertaken

in partnership with Suresearch, service users involved in research and education. The team also includes mental health service users as co-researchers.

### **What if I have a complaint about the study?**

If you have any concerns about your involvement in this research, in the first instance, raise them with the researcher or Dr Karen Newbigging, the principal researcher. If you wish to make a complaint you can do so by contacting Dr Iestyn Williams at the Health Services Management Centre, School of Social Policy, The University of Birmingham, Park House, 40 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2RT.

### **What happens next?**

If having read this information sheet, you have decided that you would like to take part, you can:

- EITHER complete the form overleaf and return to Rebecca Ince in the enclosed envelope.
- OR you can contact me directly on the number below, by e-mail or in writing to me at the address on the first page.

### **Contact for further information**

If you would like any further information or have further questions about the research, please ask any member of the research team or contact me, Karen Newbigging by e-mail on [KNewbigging@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:KNewbigging@uclan.ac.uk) or by phone on 07974929367 or Becky Ince on [R.N.Ince@bham.ac.uk](mailto:R.N.Ince@bham.ac.uk)

You can also contact Dr Sean Jennings, at the University of Birmingham as an independent contact on [researchgovernance@bham.ac.uk](mailto:researchgovernance@bham.ac.uk).

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet, which you should keep if you decide to take part in the study.**

**Please complete, detach and return in the SAE**

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**I am/am not (please delete as appropriate) willing to take part in the research study.**

**Name.....**

**Please provide your preferred contact details are:**

**Address.....**

.....

**Telephone ..... Email:.....**