



INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Keyworker perspectives on employment support for people with mental health problems

We would like to invite you to participate in this research project which has been designed collaboratively between Better Connect and the ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health (CSMH) at King's College London. The project forms part of a wider programme of research into the relationships between work, welfare and mental health. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose of the project is to understand the experiences of ATI keyworkers as they carry out their role supporting participants; to gain insights into the experiences and challenges faced by ATI participants - particularly around mental health, employment and the welfare benefits system. We are also interested in the ways that ATI participants 'make sense of' their experiences of mental distress - the language and concepts used when describing origins and lived experiences of mental health difficulties, how these understandings intersect with employment and welfare interactions, and implications for effective outcomes.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are being invited to participate in this project because you are an experienced keyworker within the ATI programme, with specialist expertise around mental health or another relevant area. Hence, your perspectives and experiences will be extremely valuable to understanding the issues this project is exploring.

What will happen if I take part?

If you choose to take part in the project you will participate in a qualitative research interview with Annie Irvine (Research Associate at the CSMH). The interview will take place via telephone, videocall or in person, according to your preference, at a time of your convenience. We expect interviews to last around 60-90 minutes but can adjust the timing according to your availability. With your agreement, the conversation will be audio/video recorded and then transcribed anonymously. You can include your time spent participating in the research as an 'eligible project activity' within your timesheet.

During the interview, we will explore questions including:

- How do you experience your role as an ATI keyworker (e.g. success factors, challenges)?
- What range of challenges do ATI participants experience in their journey towards work?
- How do ATI participants experience their encounters with the welfare benefits system?
- How do you conceptualise the term 'mental health' and how does this influence your work?
- What can be learned from ATI experiences to inform future employment support projects?

Do I have to take part?

Participation is completely voluntary. **Whilst Better Connect has endorsed the conduct of this study, you are in no way obligated to take part.** You should only take part if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way - personally or professionally. Once you have read the information sheet, please contact Annie Irvine directly (details below) if you would like to volunteer to participate in the research project or if you have any questions before you decide. If you choose to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form confirming your agreement and understanding of the project. You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

We do not foresee any risks of taking part in this study. Topics will include the concept of 'mental health' which may be sensitive for some people. We hope that, given your professional role in supporting people who may have mental health difficulties, these topics will not be overly challenging for you to talk about. However, if at any point you feel uncomfortable, you may end the interview or ask to change the topic.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The research aims to improve understanding of the experiences of people who are seeking to move towards employment, in the context of mental health difficulties. It is hoped that the findings of the research will lead to improvements in the nature of support that is offered to individuals by the welfare benefits system. Findings will also help to develop the services offered by third sector organisations including Better Connect and your direct employer. One of the outputs of the study will be a practice-focused report that can promote and inform the development of Action Towards Inclusion. We hope that this will be of interest and benefit to you as a member of the ATI delivery partnership.

What will happen to the results of the project?

The results of the project will be summarised in a full research report, a practice-focused summary report, and one or more academic articles. These will all be made available to you. We also hope to share the findings at policy and practice focused conferences and events.

Data handling, confidentiality and anonymity

Your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection law (including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018). Audio/video and transcribed data will be stored securely on encrypted drives maintained by King's College London and Better Connect.

You will remain anonymous in all published outputs of the study. Research participants will be referred to only as 'keyworkers' and identified by number (e.g. KW1, KW2). It is important to be aware that the identity of Better Connect/Action Towards Inclusion may be revealed through the process of sharing the research findings in articles and publicity events. However, **your personal identity will not be revealed** and you will remain anonymous.

The researcher, Annie, will not inform Better Connect about which keyworkers have volunteered to take part. However, at your own discretion, you may discuss this with your colleagues and managers (hence waiving your right to anonymity *within* the ATI partnership).

As the research is being conducted as a collaboration between CSMH and Better Connect, a small number of named individuals within the ATI programme management team will be involved in the analysis of interview data and so may have access to **anonymised** data. This means that they may see written transcripts of the interviews, but only once your name and any other personal details have been removed. **You may choose for your transcript to be exempted from this collaborative data sharing**, with access restricted only to Annie Irvine at CSMH. This will not affect your participation in the research project.

Your personal data (name, contact details) will be retained for 6 months following the interview, so that you can be informed of research outputs and dissemination events. You will be given the

opportunity to offer your anonymised interview transcript to a **research archive**, to be retained in anonymous form for the future use of other researchers. **This is entirely optional**, and the researcher will discuss this with you at the time of the interview. If you prefer not to offer your interview data to the archive, the interview recording and transcript will be destroyed on completion of this study.

We are conscious that these various issues around anonymity are complex. Please don't hesitate to discuss this with Annie or the Better Connect team if you have any concerns or queries.

Data Protection Statement

If you would like more information about how your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection laws please visit the link below:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research>

What if I change my mind about taking part?

You are free to withdraw at any point of the project, without having to give a reason. Withdrawing from the project will not affect you in any way. You are able to withdraw your data from the project up until 31st March 2022, after which withdrawal of your data will no longer be possible as project outputs will be in the publication process. If you choose to withdraw from the project we will not retain the information you have given thus far.

How is the project being funded?

This project is being funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council, via its funding of the ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/csmh/about>

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact Annie via email or telephone:

annie.irvine@kcl.ac.uk

07599 929 963

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

If this project has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the project you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

The Chair

Geography, Global Affairs, Global Health & Social Medicine Research Ethics Panel:
rec@kcl.ac.uk

**Thank you for reading this information sheet
and for considering taking part in this research.**