



CARERS FEDERATION
LIMITED

Research Forum

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WHO ARE WE?

Carers Federation are a Nottingham-based charity that provide services for carers and their cared for, in addition to hosting the Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS) and Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) in several regions across England.

JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER



A letter from the Chair of the Research Forum

Welcome to the December edition of the Carers Federation Research Forum quarterly newsletter! This newsletter is the place to read about all the exciting research projects and events that are happening within Carers Federation.

The Research Forum has been successful in raising its profile amongst the wider research community over the last few months, exhibiting in September at the Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire (CLAHRC-NDL) annual conference, and the recent INVOLVE conference in November (below). Both events were a success, with a number of leads for potential collaborations gained.



The Research Forum holds a meeting on the **4th Friday of every month**, and is open to all members of the Carers Federation staff with an interest in research. If you would like to come along, or have any questions, please contact Emma Richardson, Research Development Worker, using the details at the end of this newsletter.

Wishing you every success with your research activity,

Dr Cheryle Berry

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF CARERS FEDERATION



The lives of young carers have once more made headlines across the country. Recent research, carried out on behalf of the BBC by Professor Saul Becker, from the University of Nottingham, suggests that there could be nearly four times as many young carers in the UK than previously thought, meaning around 700,000 under-18's could currently be providing care at home to a loved one. Worryingly, the number of young carers may be even higher than the recent survey suggests.

As we enter a time of uncertainty with respect to local authority funding support services, it is imperative that further research is carried out to understand how best to identify and support young carers in an age of financial austerity.

With best wishes,

Trish Cargill

Barriers to service users and carers engaging in research: a progress update!

Dr Emma Richardson, Carers Federation Research Development Worker (below left) and Dr Siobhan Laird (below right), from the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Nottingham, are now several months into their research project investigating the barriers that prevent Black and Minority Ethnic carers and service users from engaging in research.



This research is being carried out in light of research funders across health and social sciences placing growing emphasis of carers and service users being meaningfully involved in all stages of the research pathway, from designing investigations and developing research bids, helping to collect and analyse data, as well as playing a role in dissemination of the findings.



To date, Emma has interviewed 10 carers to find out their understanding of what carrying out a research project entails, what might encourage them to get involved in a research project, what might prevent them getting involved in research, and how those problems may be overcome. Using the findings of these interviews to refine the question route, Siobhan will soon be holding focus groups in community venues across Nottingham to further elucidate how best to encourage and accommodate Black and Minority Ethnic carers and service users to actively engage in research.

Both researchers are proud to report that they will be co-presenting the results of this study at the upcoming First European Conference for Social Work Research, which is due to be held at St Catherine's College, Oxford University in March 2011.

Peer support for persons experiencing mental health difficulties



Carers Federation are pleased to announce that they are going to be involved in an exciting new project across Nottinghamshire, due to begin in 2011. Earlier this year Carers Federation was involved in a multi-agency bid, led by Dr Julie Repper, from the Institute of Mental Health, which was submitted in response to The Health Foundation 'Closing the

SEND TO A FRIEND!

Know someone you think should read this? Ask us for more copies of this newsletter!

GET INVOLVED!

If you would be interested in taking part in current or future Carers Federation research projects, working collaboratively on a project, or commissioning the Research Forum to carry out research on your behalf, then please get in touch with Emma Richardson by:

- e-mail: e.richardson@carersfederation.co.uk
- or telephone: (0115) 9621776

Please also contact Emma if you would like to comment on any of the articles in this newsletter, or would like further details about any of the projects listed.

Gap' competition. The bid and was successful in beating off over 80 competitors to receive funding for the innovative pilot project, which will employ peer-support workers to engage with persons experiencing mental health difficulties and their carers across Nottinghamshire. The project management team are to meet in early 2011 to finalise details of the pilot, which will hopefully begin later in the year – keep watching this space for further developments!

Grant application news

A grant submitted in collaboration with Dr Julie Repper in response to a joint call from NIHR Health Services Research/INVOLVE has reached the second stage of the funding competition. If funded, the project will assess the extent of service user involvement in research projects currently running in the nine CLAHRCs across England.

Carers Federation LIVE!

Dr Emma Richardson, Raksha Pandya (De Montfort University), and Bill O'Leary (CLAHRC Leicester, Northampton and Rutland Theme Manager for Early Detection) co-presented a paper at the recent INVOLVE conference. INVOLVE is a national advisory group which supports greater public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research, and is funded by the National Institute for Health Research.

The logo for INVOLVE, consisting of the word "INVOLVE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

The presentation detailed the challenges and advantages of multi-agency working. The Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Research Engaging Patients (LNR REP) forum was set up to facilitate patient and public involvement across the region, and is overseen by a steering group with over 20 stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds, including NHS trusts, Universities and Third Sector organisations. The talk detailed the work that had been carried out to date setting up the forum, its aims and objectives, as well as practical discussion regarding how the steering group manage the administration required to run the forum, as well as the legacy that the forum would like to leave.