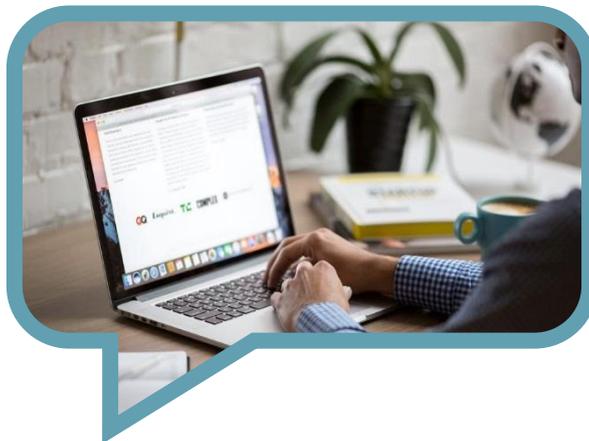


Opportunity to Become a Service-User “Lay” Reviewer for The Lancet Psychiatry



About the Opportunity

The Lancet Psychiatry is an *Elsevier* journal which publishes research which may lead to changes in how people experiencing mental health problems receive support and treatment across the world. The journal launched in 2014 and is widely recognised as one of the leading international publications dedicated to mental health.

The Lancet Psychiatry will be working with ***The McPin Foundation***, to train people to become service-user “lay” reviewers to improve the peer-review process at *The Lancet Psychiatry*. Lay reviewers are individuals without formal training as a scientist who have a strong interest in advancing mental health care. We have chosen the term ‘service user’ reviewers to emphasize the value of direct experiences gained from having been in receipt of mental health within the review process. Peer-review is an established process whereby selected experts are asked to read research papers and provide confidential feedback to researchers to inform the decisions made by Editors about whether a paper should be published or not. The peer-review process helps to validate and quality check research before it is shared publicly.

We want to make sure that the articles published in *The Lancet Psychiatry* are those of the highest standard and have a practical benefit for mental health service users, carers, clinicians and other practitioners. Introducing service-user reviewers into the peer review process is an important way to involve people with mental health problems directly in research.

McPin are looking for **10 people** to form a UK based service-user review panel for *The Lancet Psychiatry*. If successful, the panel might be extended overseas. The reviews will be for research reporting on studies that used one of two methodologies: **systematic review findings** and **randomised control trial results**. The main topics that the journal publishes upon are studies of depression, bipolar, schizophrenia or psychosis. Personal experience of these mental health problems are most relevant.

Who are we looking for?

We encourage people meeting the following person specification to apply:

- You have the right to work in the UK;
- You are over the age of 18;
- You have a good command of English and access to a computer, internet and word processing software to carry out the review work;
- You do not currently work as a paid researcher or research consultant. This new role is extending peer review to bring in expertise from people who are not currently working as researchers or consultants;
- You have a strong interest in mental health research, **including in the use of randomised controlled trials and systematic reviews** to develop an evidence base to drive changes in practice;
- You are interested in global mental health – much of the research comes from research teams based outside of the UK;
- You self-identify as a person with **direct** experience of mental health problems and currently use mental health services, and you feel able to apply your experiences to your work (in this case within a service-user review panel that will mostly be looking at research on the following topics – depression, bipolar, schizophrenia and/or psychosis);
- You are willing to learn new skills which will develop your ability to review research;
- You live within reasonable travelling distance, by car or train, of **central London** and are able to travel independently to all-day training sessions and meetings in **central London**.

What can you expect?

- Support from fellow panel members, staff from *The Lancet Psychiatry* and McPin;
- A face-to-face training day in late 2018 (date to be decided) focused on how to carry out reviews from the Editors of *The Lancet Psychiatry*;
- Use of *Publons*, an online peer-review training course as part of the training programme;
- After completion of the training programme, payment from *The Lancet Psychiatry* of **£75.00** per completed review;
- Travel expenses to training sessions will be reimbursed by attaching receipts to a completed McPin expenses claim form.

What will be expected of you?

Applicants will need to have a strong interest in mental health research and a willingness to develop new skills. Panel members will also need to:

- Be able to read and comment on written information and provide clear, balanced reasons for your comments;
- Be committed to confidentiality and work within the parameters of agreements developed by *The Lancet Psychiatry* for all peer reviewers;
- Be responsible for claiming payment for work completed and dealing with any tax issues that may arise from you receiving payments from *The Lancet Psychiatry*. **Please note: receiving payments often affects benefits. If you are in receipt of welfare benefits, you will need to declare any payments that you may receive to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and your local council (if applicable);**
- Be committed to attend and complete all the training provided, and letting the team know in advance if you have to withdraw for any reason from one session or the whole programme;

- Be committed to creating a positive learning environment, contributing your own skills and experiences as well as be open to learn from and alongside others;
- To provide support to your peers on the panel;
- To deliver reviews over the course of one year (once trained), matched to your expertise and interests. Reviews will need to be completed within 7 days of assignment. **We estimate the commitment would be no more than one review per month.**

The Lancet Psychiatry – McPin Foundation partnership

We are working together to set up the service user “lay” review panel. McPin are not receiving any funding from *Elsevier* but are contributing resources themselves in the form of travel payments to meetings for panel members.

How can I find out more information and apply?

To find out more information about this opportunity, please email: contact@mcpin.org or phone: **020 7922 7877**.

To apply to become a panel member, please [click here](#) to download the application form from our website.