Aims
1. To understand current care for people with schizophrenia or bipolar in secondary and primary care services.
2. To assess key components of collaborative care for people with schizophrenia or bipolar.
3. To explore barriers and enablers to implementing this model of care.
4. To investigate the feasibility of collaborative model of care.
5. To assess the impact of primary care based collaborative care for people with schizophrenia or bipolar.

Background
PARTNERS2: development and pilot trial of primary care based collaborative care for people with severe mental illness is funded by the NIHR Applied Health Programme grant (RP-PG-0611-20004). The program, developed by the late Professor Helen Lester and led by Professor Max Birchwood from University of Warwick, is running from March 2014 until February 2019. It is a collaboration between members of the NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) in Primary Care Clinical Sciences at the University of Birmingham, and several Universities as well as the McPin Foundation, which provides PPI (Public and Patient Involvement) expertise. PARTNERS2 developed directly out of the findings from PARTNERS1 (NIHRSPCR funded in 2009), which found that although primary care is central to the care of people with severe mental illness, consultation rates were lower than previously reported and cross-boundary and informational continuity between sectors was poor. PARTNERS1 concluded that research was needed to determine whether, a collaborative model of care 

What will PPI contribute to PARTNERS2?
High quality research and service development needs to combine excellent research expertise with insights gained from direct personal experience of the study topic. 1, 2 Feedback from reviewers of the PARTNERS2 proposal stated: “PPI is a strong element in this work”. The identification of the research topic came from the applicants’ prior research and experience of working with the target group. Service user input has been built into all sections of the research. User researchers, and consultants on each of the work streams, are a notable feature.” PPI must be active in all stages of the research. Figures 1 and 2 show this within PARTNERS2.

Collaborations
McPin Foundation, University of Exeter, Plymouth University, University of Manchester, University of Warwick, Lancaster University

School for Primary Care Research
The National Institute for Health Research School for Primary Care Research (NIHR SPCR) is a collaboration between the Universities of Birmingham, Bristol, Keele, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Southampton and UCL.

References:
2. INVOLVE (2012) Briefing notes for researchers: involving the public in NHS, public health and social care research. INVOLVE, Eastleigh