

Help improve services for people with mental illness

New opportunities available!

Do you?

Have a **diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar**? Support or care for a friend or family member who does?

Are you?

Interested in contributing to **new research** on mental health support services?



The problem:

Many people diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar only use GP services for their mental health support. In future this will also probably increase as secondary services are streamlined. Some GPs are very good at supporting people with mental illnesses, but others are less so. Some people under GP-led mental health care don't get good support, or make much progress with either their mental or physical health problems.

The PARTNERS2 Research Programme:

This **new research** programme funded by the NIHR Applied Health Programme aims to develop better ways of supporting people with severe mental illness within GP practices. A new system could offer services to enable people with schizophrenia and bipolar to lead longer, healthier and more satisfying lives. More information available:

<http://bit.do/partners2>

How You Can Help:

We are recruiting three **Advisory Panels** of people who have personal experience of living with diagnoses of schizophrenia or bipolar (as a service user or a carer) and are interested in how mental health research is done. Payment and training will be provided.

The Panels will work with university and service user researchers in Birmingham, Lancashire and Devon to develop and test a new way of supporting people with severe mental illness over the next five years. The Panels will share their experience and understanding to make the research more useful for people with these diagnoses who need support.

Interested?

If you are interested in finding out more about joining our Panels, or what the work would involve, **contact Ruth Sayers at ruthsayers@mcpin.org by September 12th 2014.**