British Association for Sexual Health and HIV and Terrence Higgins Trust

Role Description
Lay Research Panel Member

The British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) and Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) are committed to ensuring that all sexual health research is meaningful and relevant to those being targeted. To help ensure this, BASHH in collaboration with THT are setting up a research panel, made up of members of the general public, who will review and feedback to researchers planning to conduct sexual health research.

Background to Role:

Organisations that fund research often require patient and public involvement (PPI) to be part of the projects they choose to fund.
This requirement is based on the knowledge that PPI is key to ensuring the right research questions are being asked; that the conduct of research is patient-focused and that the results of research are communicated to the public and patients in an understandable way.

PPI has become increasingly popular within both medical and social research. The key principle is that the general public and/or people affected by the research topic are involved throughout the research, ensuring it is appropriate and acceptable.

The first stage of the research process is to develop a research proposal and bid for funding. It is important that PPI is included at this stage, as this can help ensure that the research design is relevant to the target population and that the researcher is able to communicate their ideas and intentions in a way that is meaningful to the general population. However, finding individuals to be involved at this stage can be a challenge in the sexual health research field. This is why BASHH and THT are setting up this lay research panel, made up of members of the general public, who will review research proposals and feedback to the researchers on their proposals.

The Type of Tasks / Activities you can be involved with:

- Review STI-focused research proposals and produce a short report for researchers
- Attend 1 hour meetings with researcher to go over research proposal and feedback (all meeting will be online via video conferencing)
- Potentially become involved in individual research projects as a member of the project’s steering committee
- Panel training and team building day (annual event)
Desirable Skills / Experience Sought:
- An interest in sexual health research or experience of sexual health services (no specific knowledge is required, but a broad understanding would be helpful).
- IT-literacy - members must be able to attend web-based training and video conference sessions, use email and review electronic documents (research proposals etc.).
- Able to read and write English
- Able to commit to spend a minimum of one year on the panel.
- Previous committee work experience is desirable.

Benefits:
- Payment of £75 per review (estimate of 4 hours taken per review).
- Travel Expenses for face-to-face meetings (according to BASHH and THT policies).
- Full training will be provided covering the research process, patient and public involvement and what being a lay representative on a steering committee involves (unpaid)
- Access to further training, via e-learning modules
- Ongoing support from panel members and chairs via a private online forum.
- Access to library services as required for particular reviews
- References given (subject to BASHH and THT policies)
- Opportunity to develop and update skills and gain new experiences
- Opportunity to be involved with academic research

Desired Commitment: At least 1 year.
Geographical Area: UK wide. 1 day of face to face training and team building will take place in London once a year. All other contact will be online.

When Required: Available for 1 review per month. Maximum of 3 hours taken to review proposal + 1 hour feedback meeting with researcher (video conference)

Selection Process: Application Form, C.V., Statement of Interest (300 words), References, Telephone Interview

For Further Information Contact:
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