

## **INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT: SERVICE USER AND CARER GROUP**

### Terms of Reference

#### **Purpose**

The service user and carer group will be made up of individuals who are or have previously been detained under the Act, or have experience caring for an individual who has been. The group's members will provide perspectives on the Mental Health Act acquired through personal lived experience and reflections on the experiences of other service users and carers gained through experiential learning.

The group will consider issues with the Mental Health Act, and will suggest solutions to these problems. The group will also advise on the best ways of engaging with service users and carers to ensure that their perspectives are considered by the review.

In the review's first phase, the group will help to shape the review's principles and emerging priorities.

In the review's second phase, the group will develop recommendations and will review emerging recommendations coming from other groups supporting the review. In addition to working with other groups the review will set up, and discussing a diverse range of issues, the group has agreed an initial set of issues of particular interest to members to consider in 'deep dives' during the review's second phase. These are: consent and autonomy; family and carer involvement, the 'nearest relative' rule and issues around confidentiality; the criminal justice system and forensic sections of the Act; how the Act works for different groups of people (e.g. those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, those with LD / Autism, children and young people); and the wider mental health system and service models.

#### **Membership**

The group will be made up of individuals who are or have previously been detained under the Act, or have experience caring for an individual who has been.

The group will be made up of individuals with different experiences (for example, of detention under different sections of the Act, covering both the civil and criminal sections; experience of being detained or caring for an individual who has been), and will be diverse (for example, with a gender balance and members of different ages, from different ethnicities, and from different parts of the country).

#### **Governance**

The group will be chaired by the vice-chair of the review, Steve Gilbert.

The group will advise the review's advisory panel, and will report directly to the chair.

The group's meetings will be formally minuted and action logs kept.

#### **Frequency**

It is expected that the group will meet three times during phase one of the review (until April 2018), and several more times during phase two (until late 2018).