

Raising Voices in Research: Mentoring

Call for mental health researchers in Wessex

Raising Voices in Research has been funded by NIHR Applied Research Collaborative Wessex (NHIR ARC Wessex) to deliver a new project 'Raising Voices in Research Mentoring' and **we would love to invite you to apply.**

What is Raising Voices in Research Mentoring?

Raising Voices in Research (RViR) is a project delivered by Action Hampshire, Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, and Engaging Communities Research Centre at University of Winchester. RViR aims to increase under-served communities participation in health and social care research. We believe this is important because if more under-served communities take part in health research, the outcomes are more likely to reflect their needs. You can read more about RViR by visiting rvir.co.uk.

The focus of RViR Mentoring is to:

- increase voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations' and their communities' understanding of health research (including mental health research)
- understand what mental health related research communities want to see
- develop community-led mental health research priorities.

What will it involve?

Successful researchers will undertake RViR 'Developing community-led research' training. After which you will be matched with a voluntary, community, or social enterprise (VCSE) organisation who works with at least one of the following communities:

- Children and young people who are neurodiverse and/or have a mental health condition
- Older adults in coastal communities
- Men with a mental health condition
- Military personnel/veterans

You will work together through a series of monthly meetings to exchange knowledge and ideas to either:

- develop a new research proposal based on the community's mental health research priorities and your area of expertise

OR

- adapt on existing research proposal/opportunity based on the community's needs (that they will have identified through previous project work)

Researchers and VCSEs will be expected to work together from September 2025 – February 2026.

Who can apply?

Any researcher within Wessex who has expertise or interest in mental health research. You must have capacity to meet with your matched VCSE organisation at least once per month from September 2025 – February 2026.

Why should I take part?

Community-led research is becoming increasingly important, with patient and participant involvement and engagement a compulsory part of all NIHR research projects. Participating in RViR Mentoring will support you to complete this element of your work, learn more about effective community engagement, and allow you to develop strong working relationships with key communities.

What support will I get?

- Invitation to participate in the RViR ‘Developing community-led research’ training module
- A grant of £1000 will be made available to support your participation in the project. This can be used for travel, equipment, materials or other support needs.
- 1:1 support from a member of the RViR team as part of the matching process with a VCSE

How do I apply?

To apply, please complete the short application form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/60ewCwbEML>

The deadline to apply is Monday 30th June 2025.

Decisions will be communicated to applicants by the end of July 2025.

Any questions?

If you'd like to discuss this opportunity further or have any questions, please contact Jess Johnson by emailing jessica.johnson@actionhampshire.org

