



*Service Users in Research*

*Mental Health Research Network*



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## **Service Users in Research Bulletin**

### **Issue Six: August 2010**

This is a special edition of the bulletin that we send out to members via post or email. In these bulletins we provide news about user involvement in the NIHR Mental Health Research Network (MHRN) and advertise opportunities for people to get involved in the MHRN and mental health research generally.

**If anyone has anything that they would like to be in the bulletin or if you would like to join Service Users in Research then please let us know. You can email us at: [mhrnppi@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:mhrnppi@kcl.ac.uk).**

**To join Service Users in Research please fill out the membership form which is sent out alongside this email.**

**These bulletins are additionally placed online at [www.mhrn.info](http://www.mhrn.info)**



**We are on Facebook! To find the Service Users in Research page type in 'Service Users in Research' in the search box at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)**

***This is a special edition of the Service Users in Research Bulletin as we have been asked to advertise a survey regarding a review that is taking place of public and patient involvement (PPI) in all of the clinical research networks of which the MHRN is one. We will produce another edition with involvement opportunities and articles in the first week of September 2010.***

## **Way Forward Review of Involvement in all Clinical Research Networks**

The Mental Health Research Network is one of a number of networks called 'clinical research networks' that are funded by the Department of Health. You can find out more about all these different networks at: [http://www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/about\\_us](http://www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/about_us)

There is a national coordinating centre known as the NIHR CRN CC (<http://www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk>) that oversees the work of all of the networks such as the MHRN. In 2009 the Department of Health announced a review of public and patient involvement (PPI) in all of the networks.

This review has been carried out by the NIHR CRN CC and is known as the 'Way Forward' process. The focus of The Way Forward review is stated on the NIHR CRN CC website as follows.

- "Greater coherence in the approaches to patient and public involvement across the Clinical Research Network
- Greater coherence and coordination with other NIHR-wide patient and public involvement work
- More joined-up working across the Network"

The Way Forward review is nearing completion with a submission due to be made to the Department of Health later this year. As a part of the review the NIHR CRN CC is conducting a survey amongst people involved in all of the different networks on the importance of the various findings of the Way Forward review thus far. The survey is anonymous and you can complete the survey online at:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/way-forward](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/way-forward)

***The survey closes on Friday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.***

We will let everyone know the results of the Way Forward review later this year once a final report has been submitted to the Department of Health.

## **The British Medical Journal and disappearing teaspoons**

The British Medical Journal (BMJ) is one of the country's most prestigious medical journals. Thanks to the miracle of Facebook the following paper from the BMJ has come to our attention:



**The case of the disappearing teaspoons: longitudinal cohort study of the displacement of teaspoons in an Australian research institute**

**BMJ volume 331: p1498-1500 (24 December, 2005)**

You can read the full text at: <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/331/7531/1498>.

We won't spoil the read for you but the researchers sure do get to the bottom of their research question ("to determine the overall rate of loss of workplace teaspoons and whether attrition and displacement are correlated with the relative value of the teaspoons or type of tearoom"). The paper itself caused quite a stir and provoked a number of responses such as 'teabags and forks as confounding factors'. You can read all the responses at: <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/eletters/331/7531/1498#124599>.

We love this paper.