

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

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# WORKING TOGETHER

PEOPLE, POLICY AND PRACTICE  
IN ALCOHOL RESEARCH

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5 APRIL 2017  
Friends House • London

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## INTRODUCTION

The theme of this year's conference is working together to reduce alcohol-related harm. As we all know, alcohol cuts across many walks of life and the challenge of reducing harmful effects is shared by individuals, communities and organisations from across society.

Alcohol research plays a critically important role in identifying potential harms, developing interventions and evaluating whether those interventions work. However, linking research with practice – and to those whom research is ultimately designed to help – can be difficult.

To address this, we have made the promotion of public involvement in research a strategic priority. We want to better understand how to engage the intended beneficiaries of our work in the process of designing, delivering and communicating research.

This year we have run workshops in London and Birmingham (with a further workshop planned to take place in Edinburgh) bringing together researchers, service providers and people with direct experience of alcohol harms. We have also reflected on our own practice, and have sought to establish robust internal systems for promoting public involvement in the work that we fund.

In the course of developing this work, we have been amazed at the range of innovative and powerful projects taking place across the country, and we are delighted to see so many of them taking part in this event. We are confident that everyone who attends today's conference will take away both knowledge and inspiration from the presentations and workshops.

As research funders, we are fortunate to work with some of the best and most innovative researchers in the country. This conference is an opportunity for us to see that work – some of which we are proud to be funding – in action and to meet the people involved. We hope you enjoy participating and that you come away with many new ideas for your own work in this important field.

# PROGRAMME

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## Morning session

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- 09.00 – 09.30**      **Registration and coffee**
- 09.30 – 09.45**      **Welcome** Professor Alan Maryon-Davis Alcohol Research UK
- 09.45 – 10.15**      **Perspectives on recovery: better than well**  
**Aisha Holloway and Sarah Rhynas** Edinburgh University and members of the Edinburgh Photovoice project.
- 10.15 – 11.15**      **Learning from experience: what public involvement is, and why it matters**  
Introductory talk  
**Simon Denegri** NIHR INVOLVE
- Panel discussion  
**Steve Dixon** Changes UK  
**Niamh Fitzgerald** Stirling University and the UKCTAS Alcohol Discussion Group  
**Wulf Livingston** Glyndŵr University  
**Catrin Andersson** Sheffield Hallam University and Family Life in Recovery project
- 11.15 – 11.30**      **Coffee Break**
- 11.30 – 12.00**      **Keynote speech**  
**Professor Dame Til Wykes**  
King's College London; founder of the Service User Research Enterprise
- 12.00 – 13.00**      **Breakout sessions**  
**Creating peer research panels**  
**Andy Irving** University of Sheffield and members of the Sheffield Addiction Recovery Research Panel
- Jo Neale** King's College London and members of the Addictions Service User Research Group
- Peer support and disenfranchised grief**  
**Oliver Standing** Adfam and members of the Bereaved through Alcohol and Drugs (BEAD) project
- Poetry, football, ballroom dancing, and other means of alcohol harm reduction**  
**Marc Mordey** Communities Together Project Manager, Alcohol Concern Cymru

13.00 – 14.15

**Lunch and activities**

Attendees will have the opportunity to explore a range of presentations, installations and interactive events in our break-out areas.

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## Afternoon session

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14.15 – 15.15

**Breakout sessions**

**Peers doing research**

**Sarah Wadd** University of Bedfordshire and members of the Public and Expert by Experience Researchers (PEERS) project

**Jo Cairns** Alcohol Research UK and formerly Changing Lives

**The Voicebox Project**

**Amanda Clayson** Manchester Metropolitan University and Voicebox Inc.

15.15 – 15.30

**Coffee Break**

15.30 – 16.00

**Stories behind the bottle**

Screening and discussion between **Sally Marlow** (King's College London) and **Lavinia Black** (King's College Addictions Service User Research Group).

16.00 – 16.30

**Reflections and Next Steps**



## Dr Catrin Andersson

Sheffield Hallam University

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Dr Catrin Andersson is a Lecturer in Criminology in the Department of Law and Criminology at Sheffield Hallam University. She holds degrees in Forensic Psychology (BA, MA) and Criminal Justice (MPhil, PhD) from the City University of New York in USA.

Catrin has co-authored papers on recovery, prison conditions in the United States and France as well as encyclopaedia entries of notorious crimes. Catrin has worked hands-on with research for a number of years, doing psychological, legal, and criminological research in the United States. Her research portfolio includes having coordinated medical/psychological research and database maintenance at a large hospital in New York City. She has been involved in developing small and large research projects and has extensive experience with secondary data management, including individual and national level health data. Her current primary research interests revolve around violence (micro and macro level), alcohol/drug use, comparative research and research methods.

Catrin is the project coordinator for 'Mapping the Recovery Journeys of Family Members of Problem Alcohol Users: A Survey of Life in Recovery for Families', a one-year project funded by Alcohol Research UK.

## Lavinia Black

### King's College Addictions Service User Research Group

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Lavinia Black is an Expert by Experience, with six years' recovery from alcohol dependence. She is currently studying for her Masters in Addiction Counselling at London South Bank University. She is also a founder member of King's College London Addictions Service User Research Group, and serves on several Advisory Groups for a variety of research and educational projects at King's College London.





## Dr Jo Cairns

### Alcohol Research UK

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Jo Cairns is Senior Research & Policy Officer at Alcohol Research UK and an associate of Newcastle University. Jo's role at Alcohol Research UK involves developing research (particularly public involvement research), translational activities and relationships with partners and stakeholders across the alcohol research, policy and harm reduction communities.

Jo holds degrees in Combined Honours – Sociology, History and French (BA Hons, 2008), Social Research Methods (MA, Geography, 2009) and Health Geography (PhD, 2013) all from Durham University.

Prior to joining Alcohol Research UK, Jo worked as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate/Teaching Fellow in the Department of Geography at Durham University (October 2012-October 2016). Jo was also a Post-Doctoral Research Associate for the health inequalities research programme within Fuse: the Centre for Translational Research in Public Health.

Jo has co-authored papers which seek to understand, reduce and prevent health inequalities. The types of projects she has been involved in include systematic reviews to reduce inequalities in obesity in both children and adults (National Institute for Health Research), a statistical analysis of the association between brownfield land and health inequalities, a review and evaluation of traffic calming measures (20mph zones and limits) to improve population health, health resilience in economically deprived areas, a mixed-methods evaluation of *Wellbeing for Life* in County Durham (Durham County Council), a multi-level analysis examining the association between opioid prescribing/usage, chronic pain and deprivation, and more recently a systematic review which explored the association between socio-economic disadvantage and suicidal behaviour (Samaritans).

Jo also worked as a volunteer at Changing Lives (The Fells) for several months (February – September 2016) delivering research workshops and providing peer research training to interested clients.

## Amanda Clayson

### Manchester Metropolitan University

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Amanda Clayson has a personal investment in recovery based research. She is exploring her own recovery journey and working closely with others to explore theirs. She is the founder of VoiceBox Inc. and is deeply committed to her core values of 'curious connected co-creation'. She is colourful and 'textured', adoring all forms of expression, particularly blending the potential of digital media, creative arts and evidence based interpersonal and learning techniques. She is a Community Research Partner with Manchester Metropolitan University on a number of social action projects. Her particular areas of interest and expertise include co-production, identity and recovery.



## Simon Denegri

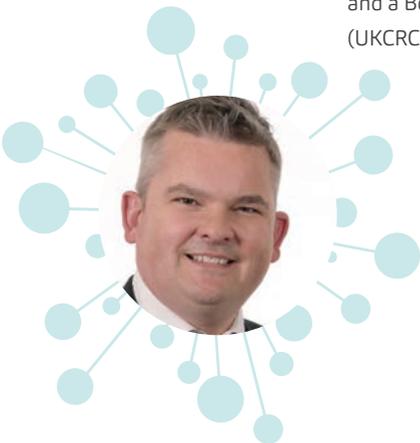
### NIHR National Director for Patients and the Public and Chair of INVOLVE

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Simon Denegri is National Director for Patients and the Public in Research at the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), and Chair of INVOLVE – the national advisory group for the promotion and support of public involvement in research funded by NIHR.

Simon was Chief Executive of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) from 2006 until 2011 and, prior to this, Director of Corporate Communications at the Royal College of Physicians from 2003. He also worked in corporate communications for Procter & Gamble in the United States from 1997 to 2000.

Simon has a long-standing personal and professional interest in the needs and priorities of people with dementia and their carers and currently chairs the Lay Champions Group for the national portal on dementia research that is to be launched this year. He is a member of the NIHR Advisory and Strategy Boards, and a Board member of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC), Farr Institute and care.data programme respectively.



## Steve Dixon

### Changes UK

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13 years ago, trapped in the relentless cycle of addiction, life no longer held any hope for Steve Dixon.

Consumed with the shame of addiction; years of reaching out to the limited avenues of support available, found himself up close and personal with the belief there was no other option than suicide.

Today, Changes UK stands as a ground-breaking model of innovative recovery services, social enterprise and community regeneration born out of the hopelessness of that very same day.

Steve's ethos "Changing Pain Into Purpose" underpins the culture and social conscience of his dedication to restoring the dignity of those affected by addiction; to empower communities to be part of the solution, bringing recovery services into a whole new dimension ensuring that no one suffers alone without knowing that they are entitled to a life with love, connection and purpose.

Runner up at the EY 2016 Entrepreneur of the year awards Steve is regularly sought out as an authority on anticipatory change transformation and innovation; believing that real change occurs when you work from the inside out, that it begins with each of us and our relationships with one another.

Steve lives with his wife Debbie, 4 children and 2 Labradoodles in Birmingham. He is a staunch Birmingham City fan who listens to Bob Marley and occasionally plays golf badly.



## Dr Niamh Fitzgerald

University of Stirling

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Dr Niamh Fitzgerald is a Lecturer in Alcohol Studies at the Institute for Social Marketing at the University of Stirling where she co-ordinates two UK-wide short alcohol policy modules and leads on public engagement on alcohol for the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies ([www.ukctas.net](http://www.ukctas.net)).

Niamh conducts research on alcohol policy and vested interests. She is leading three current projects: ExLEnS – exploring the impact of public health involvement in local premises licensing (NIHR-funded); IDEA – identifying and describing arguments in alcohol policy (CRUK-funded); and exploring the impact of the reduction in Scotland’s drink-drive limit (CSO-funded). Other work is on alcohol and gender, nalmefene use and marketing in the UK, and alcohol screening in pregnancy.

Niamh is also interested in training and implementation in relation to alcohol brief interventions, and is developing ABI training for the World Health Organization – Regional Office for Europe. She previously worked as a pharmacist, a trainer in the NHS and an independent consultant, and obtained her PhD on school-based drug education in 2003 from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen.



## Professor Aisha Holloway

The University of Edinburgh

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Dr Aisha Holloway is a registered general nurse and Professor of Nursing Studies at The University of Edinburgh. She is currently a CNO Clinical Academic Research Fellow and leads a wide programme of national and international alcohol research with a public health and alcohol-related harm focus underpinned by strong nursing leadership. The main aims of the programme are to reduce the risks and harms of alcohol in society and to influence and shape alcohol policy. In particular, this has three distinct elements (i) the development and evaluation of nurse led alcohol brief interventions (ABIs) across a wide range of health-related settings, (ii) the education and teaching development of the nursing workforce in responding to alcohol-related harm and (iii) the use of innovative multi-disciplinary, public engagement methodologies for co-production of alcohol research. Together this programme of work focuses on impact and ensuring influence at all levels.

Aisha was previously the Programme Director for the Masters in Advancing Nursing Practice within Nursing Studies at The University of Edinburgh and was short-listed for PG Educator of the Year in the Nursing Times Student Awards 2015.

A Florence Nightingale Leadership Scholar (2014-2015), Aisha undertook a bespoke programme of strategic leadership development. The focus of the Scholarship explored the development of political and strategic leadership in nursing. Aisha has undertaken a Leadership programme at Harvard Business School. She works internationally with colleagues in the USA, Asia, Middle East and Europe. In 2017 she will undertake a short internship with the ICN in Geneva focusing on International Health Policy.

Aisha has recently completed an 18-month part-time secondment to the Alcohol Policy Team at Scottish Government as an Honorary Nurse Consultant for Alcohol Research and Policy. She is the Chair of the Scottish Alcohol Research Network [www.sarn.ed.ac.uk](http://www.sarn.ed.ac.uk). Aisha has previously sat as a member on the DoH Alcohol Workforce Advisory Group. She currently sits on the Alcohol Leadership Board at PHE, acts as Advisor to Deputy Director of Nursing for PHE on Alcohol-related harm and sits on the Expert Group on Alcohol Treatment at PHE.

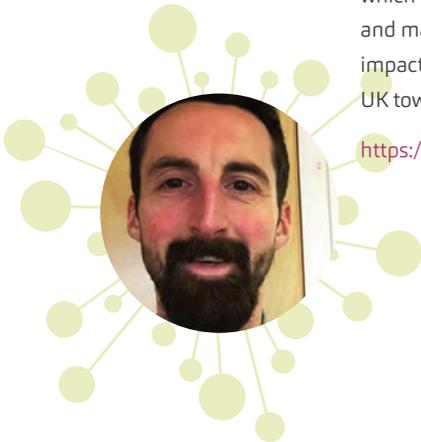
## Andy Irving

University of Sheffield

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Andy Irving is a Research Associate at the University of Sheffield, Centre for Urgent and Emergency Care Research (CURE). His work background is in drug and alcohol treatment services and he continues his research interests in this field as lead for the Sheffield Addiction Recovery Research Panel (ShARRP) Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) group and involvement in the Sheffield Addiction Recovery Research Group (SARRG). His recent major research projects include the PhoEBE programme; which is developing new ambulance performance measures, and management of the EDARA project, which is evaluating the impact of Alcohol Intoxication Management Services (AIMS) in UK towns and cities.

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/scharr/sections/hsr/cure/staff/irving>



## Dr Wulf Livingston

### Glyndŵr University Wrexham

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Wulf has had a lifelong interest in alcohol and other drugs. He has been a Senior Lecturer in Social Work at Glyndŵr University since 2010. Prior to this, he combined part-time lecturing at Bangor University with management of alcohol and drug services in both the statutory (criminal justice) and voluntary sectors. He is a qualified and registered social worker. His primary areas of research interest are: alcohol and other drugs, recovery and service user involvement; and social worker's use of knowledge in practice.

Along with a range of traditional peer reviewed outputs, Wulf is interested in translating research into practice and community facing projects. His present research involves undertaking a review of the current Welsh Government alcohol and drug strategy. Wulf is also an active member of the North Wales recovery community, and is particularly keen in supporting independent and non-funded peer groups, and especially those engaging in mountaineering. He is currently chair of the New Directions in Study of Alcohol Group and an active member of the British Association of Social Workers substance misuse specialist interest group.



## Dr Sally Marlow

King's College London

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Dr Sally Marlow is a Public Engagement Fellow at the National Addiction Centre, King's College London, where she works on a variety of addiction-related research and media projects. Since she was selected as one of the BBC's 'Expert Women' in 2013, she has researched, developed and presented a number of documentaries and packages for BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 3 and the BBC World Service. Her research interests include women and alcohol, and related mental health problems; and she works on projects which aim to break down stigma around alcohol misuse and other areas of mental health.



## Professor Alan Maryon-Davis

### Alcohol Research UK

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Alan Maryon-Davis is Chair of Alcohol Research UK and honorary professor of public health at King's College London. Alan was formerly Vice-Chair of the UK Health Forum, Chair of the Royal Society for Public Health and President of the Faculty of Public Health of the UK Royal Colleges of Physicians.

His interests include the impacts of health policy, environments and lifestyle on health behaviours and he has been a member of a number of national advisory committees, including public health research.

Alan is also a prolific writer and broadcaster on health matters.





## Marc Mordey

### Alcohol Concern Cymru

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Marc has wide-ranging and diverse levels of experience, skills and abilities relating to the development and furtherance of services for people who are excluded or disadvantaged. Since 1983, he has worked as a CEO/senior manager in organisations, both voluntary and statutory (NHS), providing for people with substance and alcohol misuse, homelessness and mental health issues, and on projects relating to the rehabilitation of offenders.

Marc has extensive knowledge and experience of working with diversity, both as a manager and a facilitator. From 2000 onwards, he has worked, as an independent consultant, on matters relating to ageing well, and also as a community participation facilitator.

From January 2014-March 2017, Marc has been the project manager on the Communities Together (Fishguard and Goodwick) scheme, run by Alcohol Concern Cymru, and described by a local citizen as “community development with an alcohol twist”.

Marc has strong links to the Asset Based Community Development movement and elements of that approach have been used within his Pembrokeshire-based work. Marc’s approach to his work is enthusiastic, efficient and result orientated. The critical element of any work that he undertakes is that people come away with a strong sense that their views have been heard, the options clearly presented and with clear and realistic action plans for future development and growth.

## Dr Jo Neale

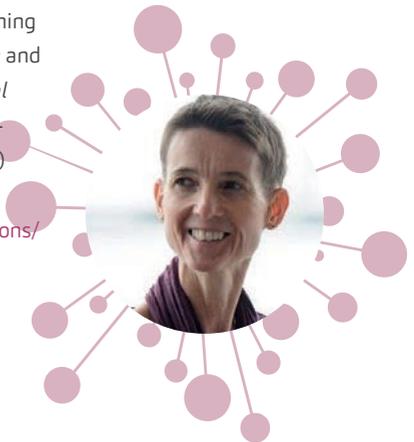
King's College London

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Jo Neale is Reader in Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research based within the National Addiction Centre and working across the Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London, UK. She is also Conjoint Professor in the Centre for Social Research in Health at the University of New South Wales, Australia.

Jo originally qualified as a social worker and has held positions at the University of Glasgow, the University of York, and Oxford Brookes University UK, where she was Professor of Public Health.

Jo has undertaken a range of qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods studies exploring topics relating to both illicit drug use, problem drinking and homelessness. She is Commissioning Editor and Senior Qualitative Editor for the journal *Addiction* and a member of the editorial boards of *The International Journal of Drug Policy* and *Health Sociology Review*. In 2013, she co-founded the Addictions Service User Research Group (SURG) with Paul Lennon and colleagues from the Aurora Project, Lambeth London: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/depts/addictions/research/SURG/index.aspx>



## Dr Sarah Rhynas

The University of Edinburgh

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Dr Sarah Rhynas is a registered nurse with longstanding clinical and academic interests in alcohol related brain damage (ARBD) and older people living with dementia. She has a strong qualitative research background and a particular interest in creative research methodologies.

Sarah has recently worked alongside Professor Aisha Holloway, to develop the use of photography to enhance engagement with research. Studies have explored the experience of recovery from alcohol related harm and engagement with the environment during recovery. Sarah is currently working with service-users, artist and academic partners to develop a toolkit to explain the photography techniques and to allow others to engage with this innovative, participatory way of developing and presenting evidence. She is looking forward to starting a new project which uses photovoice to explore the 'key ingredients' of sustained recovery in supportive social environments.

Sarah is also currently involved in research about discharge from acute hospitals to care homes, staff and family perspectives about care home discharge decision making and the maintenance of personal identity in hospital for those living with dementia.

## Oliver Standing

### Adfam

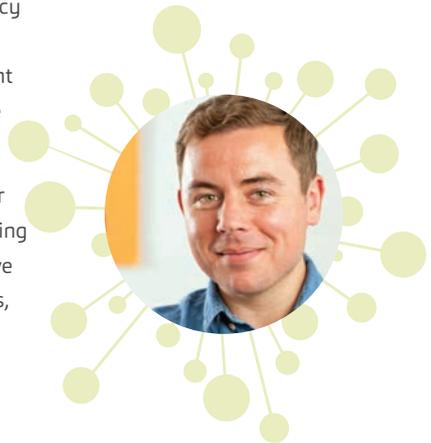
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Oliver is Director of Policy and Communications for Adfam – the national charity working to improve support for families affected by drug or alcohol use. Adfam's mission: Drug and alcohol use can threaten and ultimately destroy family relationships and wellbeing. We empower family members and carers, support frontline workers and influence decision-makers to stop this happening.

In his current role, Oliver is responsible for overseeing the funded projects, day-to-day and strategic communications and policy work of the organisation. Over the past seven years, Oliver has worked on projects spanning the workforce development of the treatment sector, domestic abuse, novel psychoactive substances, youth offending and bereavement.

Working in partnership with Cruse Bereavement Care, Oliver has developed an innovative peer-support project empowering those bereaved by substance use to support others who have experienced a similar kind of loss through structured groups, befriending and intensive phone support.

Before Adfam, Oliver worked for the Family and Parenting Institute and Skills for Justice.



## Dr Sarah Wadd

University of Bedfordshire

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Dr Sarah Wadd leads the Substance Misuse and Ageing Research Team (SMART) at the University of Bedfordshire and is one of the UK's leading experts on substance misuse in older people. Her seminal 'Working with Older Drinkers Study', funded by Alcohol Research UK, identified best practice in this area based on interviews with alcohol practitioners and older people receiving alcohol treatment.

Sarah is the academic lead for the £25m Big Lottery funded 'Drink Wise Age Well' Programme which aims to reduce alcohol harm in people aged 50 and over. Her other research studies have included alcohol misuse that co-exists with cognitive impairment in older people, illicit drug/medication misuse in older people, 'wet' care homes for older people and accessibility/suitability of residential alcohol detox/rehabilitation services for older people. Sarah is passionate about training and supporting older adults with lived experience of substance misuse to lead research in this area.



## Professor Dame Til Wykes

King's College London

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Til Wykes is Professor of Clinical Psychology and Rehabilitation and Vice Dean Psychology and Systems Sciences at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London. She has been involved in research on rehabilitation for many years both in the development of services and the evaluation of innovative psychological treatments for psychosis. She founded and is now Co-Director of the Service User Research Enterprise (SURE), which employs expert researchers with experience of using mental health services.

She edits the *Journal of Mental Health* and is NIHR Senior Spokesperson on Mental Health Research. She was awarded a Damehood recently for her work in mental health.





## Addictions Service User Research Group (SURG)

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### Representatives

<b>Paul Lennon</b>	Addictions Service User Research Group
<b>Mel Getty</b>	Addictions Service User Research Group
<b>Cassandra Hogan</b>	Addictions Service User Research Group
<b>Annabel Bovelcup</b>	Addictions Service User Research Group

Within the Addictions Department, we work closely with our own Service User Research Group (SURG). This group was formed in 2013, and is hosted by the [Aurora Project](#), which is a peer mentoring service for people who are drug and alcohol users in Lambeth. The central aim of the SURG is to build meaningful and reciprocal relationships between addiction researchers and service users when thinking through research problems, designing studies, preparing grant applications and ultimately conducting and disseminating research. Addiction researchers benefit from having expert service users on hand to advise on their studies and group members benefit from research training, access to cutting edge information on emerging drug treatments, and some work experience.

The SURG is co-convened by [Dr Jo Neale](#) (IoPPN) and Paul Lennon (Aurora Project) with financial support from the [Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health at the IoPPN](#). In addition to Jo and Paul, there are 11 core group members, all drug and alcohol service users and they meet monthly in Lambeth. Researchers from the IoPPN or their collaborators are able to book initial advice sessions with the SURG to talk about their research and to establish relationships with group members who can then go on to be co-applicants or collaborators on their studies. The SURG also offers support virtually – for example, by commenting on lay summaries, topic guides and questionnaires.

The SURG operates via a hub and spoke model, meaning that if nobody in the core group is available or feels they have the relevant expertise to comment on a particular study, members will try to identify other service users in their networks who are willing and able to help. Group members have already advised on a number of proposals for a range of funders, attended seminars and workshops as invited experts, assisted with study design and recruitment, and provided advice to PhD students. In addition, the SURG has developed links with, and is now actively contributing to, the Alcohol Theme of the Collaboration for Leadership in [Applied Health Research and Care \(CLAHRC\) South London](#) and the [Health Innovation Network South London](#).

## Bereaved through Alcohol and Drugs (BEAD) project

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### Representative

**Jo Dickie** Peer Support Volunteer

The BEAD (Bereavement through Alcohol and Drugs) project provides peer support to adults bereaved through a loved one's drug or alcohol use. A partnership project run by Adfam (the national charity working to improve life for families affected by substance use) and Cruse Bereavement Care (the national charity working to improve society's reaction to bereavement), the project works with a team of dedicated trained volunteers who have all themselves been bereaved to provide support either through intensive 1-2-1 sessions, befriending over a longer period of time, or in a group setting. The project has been funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

## Edinburgh Photovoice project

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### Representatives

- Brandon Walker** professionally involved in Service User Involvement and Peer Support development. LEAP and Serenity Cafe.
- Samantha Rutherford** Artist, Freelance Art educator, National Galleries of Scotland
- Steven Cockburn** Veterans Liaison Officer, Lothians veterans Cafe

The Edinburgh Photovoice project afforded those affected by alcohol-related harm the opportunity to document their daily lives, environment and recovery journey through the use of Photovoice, a technique using photographic art and narrative.

The presentation of photos and stories show the impact of the environment, licensing and peer support on an individual's recovery.

The project was a collaboration between The University of Edinburgh, and members of two alcohol-related organisations in Edinburgh, Rowan Alba and Serenity Café, with support from the National Galleries of Scotland.

## Family Life in Recovery project

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### Mapping the recovery journeys of family members of problem alcohol users: a survey of life in recovery for families

#### Representative

**Dr Catrin Andersson** Lecturer, Sheffield Hallam University and Project Manager of the Family Life in Recovery project

Family Life in Recovery is based on a partnership between a research team at Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) and Adfam, a national charity for local family support groups. The first UK Life in Recovery (LiR) survey (Best et al., 2015) used an online survey method that resulted in 802 successful completions. The findings of the LiR survey tap into the current project as the family emerged as a crucial domain in which many improvements were made as individuals moved from active addiction to recovery. While relying heavily on family members and family-oriented organisations in designing the survey, the Family Life in Recovery survey focuses on exploring two key aspects – the family member’s recovery journey and his or her experiences of an addict’s recovery journey.

## Public and Expert by Experience Researchers (PEERS)

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#### Representative

**Maureen (Moe) Dutton** Public and Expert by Experience Researcher (PEER)

Public and Expert by Experience Researchers (PEERS) are people who have personal experience of later life alcohol problems and are receiving a training programme to enable them to become independent researchers. SMART currently employs two PEERS. Our rationale for employing PEERS is that:-

- Their perspectives help to ensure that the research addresses the interests of the target population.
- They bring knowledge and experiential insight to the process.
- It helps to allay interviewees’ fears of talking about sensitive topics such as addiction.
- It is in keeping with the ethos of our team, that is, collaborative, equitable partnership involving and empowering and power-sharing process.

PEERs receive training in research and evaluation methods and work alongside experienced researchers on existing projects until they are able to lead every aspect of the research/evaluation process from securing funding for a study that they have designed themselves to publishing the findings in academic journals.

## Sheffield Addiction Recovery Research Panel (ShARRP)

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### Representatives

**Sarah Willmott** member of the ShARRP

**Steven Collier-Ellen** member of the ShARRP

The Sheffield Addiction Recovery Research Panel (ShARRP) is a group comprised mainly of people with personal experience of dependent drug and alcohol use as well as carers, partners or family of those who have had problems with drugs or alcohol. Panel members volunteer their time to meet on a bi-monthly basis to consider and review current and future possible research in this field. The main purpose of the ShARRP is to empower those with relevant first-hand experience to shape how drug and alcohol related research is undertaken. The ShARRP help researchers to take proper account of the needs and experiences of this group thereby improving the overall quality and credibility of research in this area

## UKCTAS Alcohol Discussion Group

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### Representatives

**Morgan McDonald** Public advisor

**Jonathan Bradley Lavin** Public advisor

The Alcohol Discussion Group was established at the University of Stirling in February 2015, with funding and support from the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies ([www.ukctas.net](http://www.ukctas.net)). The group consists of members of the public recruited mostly through Facebook, and word of mouth, and has had five meetings. Each meeting has two sections: (1) presentation and discussion of current or recent research about a specific aspect of alcohol policy, and (2) update and discussion

of research ideas, bids and new studies. The group membership has evolved over time but many have attended since the first meeting and report that they enjoy the social side of the meetings as well as the research discussions.

## Voicebox Inc.

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### Representatives

<b>Amanda Clayson</b>	Founder and Creator
<b>Laura Clayson</b>	Research and Production Assistant
<b>Zac Sargent</b>	Digital Developer
<b>Chase Johnston Lynch</b>	VoiceBox Crew
<b>Tony Ryan</b>	VoiceBox Crew
<b>Kieran Ryan</b>	VoiceBox Crew
<b>Lucy Webb</b>	Senior Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University and academic partner with VoiceBox Inc. on a range of research projects around substance use, recovery and co-productive methodologies

Unlike our name, we don't fit neatly in a box. Our passion is around motivating and mobilising people to discover, develop, and express their authentic voice and use it for purpose. We work with businesses, public and third sector organisations and academia. Making a difference and positive change are part of our very being. We know first-hand the power of creativity and connection, developing a rich toolbox of approaches, tools and processes to capture and create social action and social value through individual, organisational and community development. We are excited to be bringing a bespoke multi-media 'Installation' to the Conference and look forward to sharing its evolution and application to the development of more co-productive methodologies.





## ALCOHOL RESEARCH UK

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27 Swinton Street, London WC1X 9NW

Visit us: [alcoholresearchuk.org](http://alcoholresearchuk.org)

Email us: [info@alcoholresearchuk.org](mailto:info@alcoholresearchuk.org)

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[www.alcoholresearchuk.org](http://www.alcoholresearchuk.org)

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