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Service User and Carer Partnership Research Development Group

Question: Why does there need to be a collaborative approach in writing academic articles for publication?

Answer: So that EVERYONE'S Voice is represented and heard.

Stage 1:

Members of the SUCPRDG who wanted to be involved in writing for publication established a Writing Group.

Stage 2:

Members agreed on the focus of their first research article and then established a way of communicating via email and face to face meetings that gave everyone an opportunity to be involved in the process.

Stage 3:

Individuals volunteered for different responsibilities within the writing process e.g. One member focused on the results tables and figures and one member focused on writing the introduction.

Stage 4:

Communication with members of the Writing Group took place at regular meetings and through email to ensure that everyone could comment on work that other members had produced.

Key issue 1:

The terminology used for the term 'service users' and it was agreed that the term 'person with lived experience' was preferred.

Key issue 2:

The style of the article – by this we mean there was tension between writing in the traditional academic format versus a more user friendly, informal style.

Key issue 3:

How we incorporate training and support in terms of writing skills to ensure that EVERYONE has a voice in the process.

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The writing group are about to send the first draft of their research paper – Our Voice, Our Choice to the Journal of Public Mental Health

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