



young people taking responsibility  
for their own mental health

## Newsletter

Emerging Minds (SIRG) Newsletter Number 3. May 2021

### Group Development

As our Network continues to develop and grow, one of the most satisfying connections recently has been from the parent of a 14-year-old from Manchester. His daughter is a mental health ambassador at her secondary school and wanted to get involved with our project. Since then, the school she attends have been in touch and we are looking at working with their mental health ambassador team to explore how young people can take responsibility for their mental health. Meetings have also been held with a number of charities who are interested in partnering with us. The CEO of MIRICYL (Mental Illness Research in Children and Young Lives), Alex Conway, talked to us about the possibility of getting involved with the SIRG. They intend staying in touch with the aim of collaborating further down the line. Young Minds are also exploring the possibility of using their networks to identify groups of young people to contribute towards answering our focus questions.

### Sussex Partnership Trust PPI

A further meeting has been held with the group of young people from Sussex. Four of them have volunteered to start analysing the data from our first session. A meeting was held at the end of April to discuss how the analysis may be facilitated as well as to explore using software to assist this. A short introductory session explored the options open to those conducting the analysis of qualitative data; the group also investigated how the process may work. Quirkos, an intuitive software programme designed to support qualitative analysis, was introduced with a demonstration that explored how best it may be applied within this work. As a recognition of the time and effort that the young people are putting in to this work, they will receive gift vouchers from My mind is my own. It is hoped that the process which is being developed through the work with this group may serve as a template for our working with groups in the future.

### VOICES\_Ed project

Clare Woolhouse (Voices\_Ed project) met with 3 other members of the group to look in to the methodology of the Voices\_Ed project. This utilizes a photo-elicitation methodology to explore meanings, perspectives and understandings of inclusion, and exclusion, in school settings. It has also adopted artifying and cartoonising as a way of ensuring anonymity in addition to creating attractive and usable resources, that have been produced by the young people within the project. The group explored whether this approach could be used to develop our own creative methodology so as to advise youth group participation as our project develops. The group aims to meet again later this month to look at the possibility of attracting seed funding to move things forward.

For further information on the Voices\_Ed project please go to:

[https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/education/research/voices\\_ed/](https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/education/research/voices_ed/)

If you would like to be involved in this project, please contact Dave on [davemcpartlan@me.com](mailto:davemcpartlan@me.com)