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Yorkshire and Humber



## Full steam ahead for Team DIAMONDS

Winter Edition

Last December, it was great to meet and show our appreciation to the many people across England who are involved with **DIAMONDS** at the dissemination event in York.

### So what is next? Jen Brown our Programme Manager updates us.....

After a busy 2024, the new year is already full steam ahead for Team **DIAMONDS**! 431 people with serious mental illness and type 2 diabetes agreed to take part in our study. Many participants have already completed the study but our team is still busy delivering the intervention and collecting data. Our fabulous **DIAMONDS** Coaches continue to do a tremendous job offering 1-to-1 support sessions to participants.

**Yomi Sanusi** has been speaking to Service users across the country on their experiences of the **DIAMONDS** support. Among other things, they have been enlightening us on how it went for them, what they achieved and how they think a future **DIAMONDS** should look like. Also, Yomi has been speaking to family members and friends of service users about how they have been supporting them, how the **DIAMONDS** affected the support they give, and how they think **DIAMONDS** should be structured for the future.

In the next couple of months, we will be busy writing papers and sharing updates on our website. We have a couple of conferences coming up: the Leeds & York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Research Conference in February and the annual meeting of the UK Society for Behavioural Medicine (UKSBM) in March.

Make sure you come and say hi if you're attending!

**Watch this space and please get in touch if you'd like to be involved.**



There is more.....



## DIAMONDS URDU

**Research Associate Nilam Khan** is now leading on this project. Following a 14-month recruitment period for **DIAMONDS URDU**, five South Asian Urdu-speaking participants enrolled in the study. As a result of the unexpectedly low participation rates, the goals of **DIAMONDS URDU** were revised and approved by NIHR.

This project team now has an exciting year ahead planned, where they will work with South Asian communities in the Yorkshire region, to find out what concerns, and tips they have for engaging in mental health research studies.

The team will also interview Research and Delivery teams in Bradford, Leeds, South West Yorkshire, Lancashire and Sheffield, to inquire what the process of recruiting South Asian Urdu-speaking participants was like and how we can learn from it. The team is also busy preparing a review on previous mental health research studies conducted on South Asian communities, so watch this space!



## Severe Mental Illness and Kidney Disease



The **LINKS** Study (ment**L** Ill**N**ess and Kidney di**S**ease), the NIHR Advanced Fellowship being completed by Claire Carswell, is finishing up its first year at the end of February. In that first year we have started a **systematic literature** review to see how common kidney disease is among people with severe mental illness. This involves searching for all the research available on the topic and bringing it together to summarise the findings. After searching through almost 14,000 records, we have found 44 research articles that are relevant.

Claire has also started her MSc as part of the fellowship and has visited University College London and Kings College London, to discuss the next steps of the study, which includes looking at data from primary care across the UK and conducting interviews with service users, carers, and healthcare professionals. The **LINKS** Study also had its first PPI panel meeting in September of 2024 (which includes members of **DIAMONDS Voice**). The panel created the name for the study, provided feedback on the plans for the study, and came up with ideas for a logo. The next meeting of the **LINKS** PPI panel will be on the 19th of February in Leeds.

If you want more information, or would like to get involved in the **LINKS** Study, contact Claire at: [claire.carswell@york.ac.uk](mailto:claire.carswell@york.ac.uk)

**For further information concerning any of the DIAMONDS projects or DIAMONDS Voice activities either visit our website: <https://www.diamondscollaboration.org.uk/> or contact Angie Ross. E: [ppihealthresearch@gmail.com](mailto:ppihealthresearch@gmail.com) T: 07588329185**