Are we asking the right questions?

Help shape LGBTQ+ research at the University of Cambridge

Katie Saunders, a researcher in the Department of Public Health & Primary Care wants to explore perspectives from the LGBTQ+ community about what is important to research in healthcare. Feedback will help shape a 4-year (long term) Research Fellowship application she is hoping to make in early 2021.

Working with small groups of people who identify under the LGBTQ+ umbrella, the conversations with Katie will focus on what matters to these communities in terms of health and healthcare and how we can best to use routine healthcare data to answer important research questions in LGBTQ+ health. The priority here is making sure LGBTQ+ voices are heard in healthcare research and that research agendas (and specifically her future research proposal) are established in collaboration with the communities in question, rather than on their behalf.

Katie is a statistician and works with routine healthcare data – some examples of these types of data sources are data that are collected through patient surveys, or as the result of interactions with health services. Other examples are data that are collected as research resources, including household surveys (which give a snapshot of life in the UK) or cohort studies which follow people up over time.

You do not need to be a researcher, or be familiar with research to take part in this project – we are interested in your opinions about what is important in LGBTQ+ healthcare research in order to develop research questions that can be answered using these routine healthcare data resources.

Sally Crowe, an independent facilitator of public involvement in research will facilitate the conversations. Meg Roberts, a PhD student (Newnham College) will assist and help Katie and Sally get to know LGBTQ+ communities in Cambridge, and help develop their trust and confidence in taking part in the process.

This work is funded by a NIHR School for Primary Care Research launching fellowship award made to Katie Saunders.
More about the team

Katie Saunders [https://www.phpc.cam.ac.uk/people/pcu-group/pcu-senior-research-staff/katie-saunders/](https://www.phpc.cam.ac.uk/people/pcu-group/pcu-senior-research-staff/katie-saunders/)

Meg Roberts [https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/people/meg-roberts](https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/people/meg-roberts)

Sally Crowe [http://www.crowe-associates.co.uk/experience/](http://www.crowe-associates.co.uk/experience/)

Getting involved in this project means; Taking part in an online meeting on Thursday 29th October 2020 (1.5 – 2 hours, via Zoom), with further contact by email. The group will comprise 8 – 10 people, be informal, and we will record the conversation. Pre-meeting information will be provided, and emails afterwards will provide a summary and describe next steps. Payment is £25 per hour, this is not applicable to Cambridge University staff or students who get involved.

Katie has reviewed previous research priorities for LGBTQ+ health and healthcare. There are some areas that need attention, these will be the starting point for the conversation. Published research priorities have evolved over time. More recently areas broadly cover, health services delivery (e.g. focusing on GP or hospital care, or questions around the disclosure of sexual orientation in healthcare settings), health and social policy (e.g. understanding the pathways through which discrimination and stigma impact LGBTQ+ health), preventing ill health (for both physical and mental health conditions), developing treatments or interventions (e.g. understanding the health impacts of gender-affirming care, or how to plan LGBTQ+ appropriate health services), understanding LGBTQ+ specific issues including sexual health and fertility, and intersectionality (particularly the interconnected nature of health and sexual orientation with age, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, and material deprivation), and priorities for understanding groups experiencing particular challenges including homelessness, or contacts with the criminal justice system.

To register your interest please contact Sally Crowe via sally@crowe-associates.co.uk or 07941 165127 in confidence OR Meg Roberts on mr730@cam.ac.uk. To contact Katie Saunders please email ks659@medschl.cam.ac.uk or call 07505 214902