

the **SCRIPT** study

SOCIAL CARE RESEARCH IN PRACTICE TEAMS

CALL FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



What is the **SCRIPT** study?

Full title: Enhancing research capacity in adult social care and social work in the East of England: testing the feasibility of **S**ocial **C**are **R**esearch in **P**ractice **T**eams.

The project is funded by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) to test a Communities of Practice approach to support better use of research evidence in adult social care. The Communities of Practice will be called Research in Practice Teams. As well as setting up and supporting the Research in Practice Teams, the **SCRIPT** study team will carry out an evaluation to see if this model can mobilise research learning and promote the undertaking of research that reflects the priorities and challenges in Adult Social Care.

Main Aims:

- Enabling social care and social work practitioners to develop research skills through training and carrying out a research project
- Understanding what resources are needed to support the development of research capacity in adult social care services using a team-based approach



Norfolk
County Council



NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration
East of England

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Continuing professional development – Associate Members

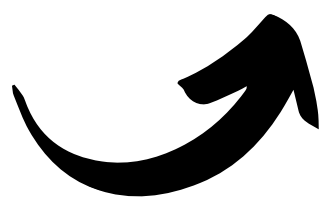
This leaflet outlines the opportunity and application process to become an Associate Member in one of four RiPTs – a role that will be supported by back-fill of salary for one day/month for the duration of the RiPT work. The RiPTs will each have a Lead Member and 4-5 Associate Members (see panel on right hand side). Once in place, we will also recruit experts by experience to the Teams.

This offers Continuing Professional Development opportunities for up to twenty people (working in adult social care or social work across the East of England and across the statutory and voluntary sectors) to be part of one of four Research in Practice Teams (RiPTs) from May/June 2022 (to January 2024).

The Research in Practice Teams (RiPTs)

We have recruited four RiPT Leads who will be involved in developing and delivering a research project over the next two years.

Leads and their area of interest:



Topic 1

Exploring the lived experiences of older people discharged via ‘Discharge to Assess’ Pathway One (i.e. people who are discharged to their own homes). Led by: Toby Connell, Quality Assurance Officer, Quality Assurance Team, Adult Social Services, Norfolk County Council

Chris Metcalf: c.metcalf@herts.ac.uk

Topic 2

Exploring the effectiveness of Occupational Therapy (OT) reablement services in increasing independence among residents. Led by: Sophie Tooke, Reablement Occupational Therapist, Norfolk First Support - Northern Adult Social Care

Sophie Tooke: s.tooke@herts.ac.uk

Topic 3

The impact of occupational therapy in adult social care learning disability services: exploring the experiences of people with learning disabilities, their carers, and occupational therapists. Led by: Tom Swinson, Occupational Therapist, East Herts and Broxbourne Adult Disability Team, Adult Care Services, Hertfordshire County Council

Toby Connell: t.connell2@herts.ac.uk

Topic 4

Exploring citizen attitudes towards the use of Technology Enabled Care home activity monitoring systems to provide proactive social care service interventions to support independent living at home. Led by: Chris Metcalf, County Manager - Assistive Technology, Assistive Technology - Early Help & Prevention, Norfolk County Council

Tom Swinson: t.swinsonb@herts.ac.uk

What is involved in being an Associate Member of the RiPTs?

The Associate Members will become part of one of the four RiPTs which will operate as Community of Practice (CoP). A Community of Practice is a group of people with a common interest in a topic or problem who come together regularly with the aim of sharing ideas, building links and exchanging good practice.

Each RiPT will undertake a research project on a topic of interest (as outlined overleaf). It will be led by the Lead Member, in collaboration with the Associate Members and Experts by Experience, building on and using members' existing knowledge and drawing on experience within the team of different aspects of Adult Social Care.

Support for the RiPTs

Each team will be supported throughout by the SCRiPT study academics and senior practitioners. The user-led organisation, Shaping Our Lives, will support the RiPTs to ensure experts by experience are involved in the projects and the resulting research is inclusive and relevant for local users of social care services.

As an Associate Member, you will:

- Have protected time (one day per month) for RiPT work
- Be provided with an introductory training programme to build knowledge about doing research as well as having access to further research training
- Be part of a team contributing learning and evidence towards better decision-making, service design and provision of adult social care
- Meet regularly (mostly via online options) with the RiPT Lead Member to support the research project
- Have an option to undertake some data collection for the research project (e.g. an interview with a service user or a focus group with colleagues)
- Feed in knowledge from your own practice and take back research knowledge to their colleagues
- Assist with sharing information about the research project and its findings

Who can apply?

- Anyone employed in adult social care or social work services across the East of England and across the statutory and voluntary sectors.
- The RiPTs will come together around the four topic areas outlined. You should have an interest in the topics themselves or you might work with a client group relevant to the topics (see panel overleaf)

Any questions?

Contact the study team:

E: script@herts.ac.uk



How to apply

Discuss with your line manager to get their support

Watch a webinar about SCRiPT and the projects [here](#). Contact the RiPT Lead before applying to discuss your interest. Their emails are in the previous page. Both the webinar and the chat will give you more information about SCRiPT and the leads.

Access the application form and criteria [here](#)

Submit your application by the closing date – **17:00, Tuesday April 19**

Successful applicants will be notified week commencing **April 25**

Success? Start in May/June 2022