

The Mental Health and Justice Service User Advisory Group Impact Log Analysis Project

The Service User Advisory Group (SUAG) have been collecting 'impact log' data from researchers who have presented at SUAG meetings or worked with the group on individual consultations as a way of assessing the impact of service user involvement in a large and complex multidisciplinary mental health research project. It is hoped that, through analysis of this data, we will be able to understand more about how SUAG involvement has concrete outcomes in terms of impact on research development and that this type of process might provide a reproducible method for other research projects to measure the impact of co-production.

Data forms were sent to each researcher for each engagement with the SUAG (minutes of meetings were provided if the researcher requested). We have posted an example data collection form so that people can see the questions which were asked as part of data collection. The data is currently being analysed using the thematic analysis method for qualitative research. We aim to publish the findings once the analysis process is complete.

The analysis process and write-up will be conducted entirely by members of the SUAG. While 2 SUAG members are leading on the thematic analysis process, all current members of the SUAG have had some involvement. For example, 6 SUAG members participated in the initial coding process and creation of a coding scheme, with 2 more providing input into this process. An anonymised version of the Excel document we used to create a combined coding scheme is posted here. While the 2 lead researchers used specialist software for coding, we were able to open the process up to all SUAG members using Excel, a more widely available programme.

Currently, we are coding the full dataset using the combined coding scheme. We will circulate the results of this process amongst the SUAG in early Autumn 2022 and will meet to discuss the key themes which have emerged from the analysis process.

We believe that the MHJ SUAG impact log project is an important innovation in service user involvement in research and will be part of creating models for co-production where service users are not only advisors on a research project but become researchers themselves.