

Health and Work Conversations: Improving initiation and delivery in health settings

This brief provides:

- An overview of research commissioned by Public Health England and The Joint Work & Health Unit, seeking to gain a more detailed understanding of the conversations about work taking place in a variety of health consultations across the UK
- Information to help you decide whether you want to take part in this research, and if so, how you can do that



Good Work, Good Health
Working Knowledge in Work & Health

Background

Public Health England and The Joint Work & Health Unit seek to promote healthcare professionals' understanding of the health benefits of good work, and to provide them with the tools, techniques and environment to have helpful conversations about work. We have been commissioned to carry out a review of the evidence and current practice. The project team are:

- Dr Serena Bartys (project lead), University of Huddersfield
- Professor Kim Burton, University of Huddersfield
- Dr Amanda Edmondson, University of Huddersfield
- Christine Parker, University of Salford
- Rachel Martin, University of Salford

What is the purpose of this research?

Good work is generally considered to be good for health, with strong evidence that work participation can improve health outcomes, promote recovery and aid rehabilitation.

Healthcare professionals are in a prime position to administer the latest evidence-based guidance and advice about work, helping to avoid the detrimental physical, mental and social effects of long-term sickness absence and unemployment.

We know that many healthcare professionals would like further information on how to initiate and conduct conversations about work, particularly when:

- there are reservations about the acceptability of discussing work issues when they are not (or not perceived to be) part of the patient's agenda;
- it is recognised that conversations about work may not be useful or appropriate at every encounter;
- the nature and quality of work is an obstacle, and;
- there are systemic and procedural barriers in place.

To help address these issues, we are looking to gain further understanding of existing professional engagement approaches and how these are currently, or could be, used to incorporate helpful conversations about work into routine clinical practice.

Why have I been invited to take part?

- you are a healthcare professional with working-age patients
- you manage/represent/commission healthcare provision

Participation is completely voluntary. Please be assured that this research is not aimed at testing your knowledge or competence. It is an opportunity to reflect on your own practice and that of your profession/the profession you represent, and to contribute to the design and development of guidance in this area.

- *If you take part in the in the online survey, your personal identifying details will not be provided to the research team and your responses will be anonymous*
- *If you respond to our messages about this project on social media, other people will see what you say; we ask that you be mindful of this when commenting. If we use any of your comments from social media this will only be merged into our analysis with all the data that has been collated: we will not use any direct quotes from your social media comments so that you will not be identifiable*
- *If you provide any personal contact details (i.e. name, address, email, telephone number), as part of arranging a telephone interview, these details will be stored securely on a password protected network at the University of Salford and will be deleted/destroyed after you have participated. However, if you have consented to be contacted for future research, we will continue to store your name and contact details for up to 3 years*
- *Even if you give your consent, you are still free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without your rights being affected. However, the information you have given up to the point of withdrawal will remain part of the research*
- *We will not be making any payment or expenses for taking part*
- *Your responses will be merged with those of other participants for analysis purposes, identifying a number of themes and sub themes*
- *You will not be identified in any project outputs*
- *We do not anticipate there to be any risks or disadvantages to you taking part in this research, nor are there any specific benefits to you as an individual.*
- *We have provided contact details at the end of this document and you are welcome to ask any further questions before deciding to participate.*

How do I take part?

You can choose to participate via one of the following methods, whichever you prefer:

- An online survey (approx. 30 mins)
- A telephone interview (approx. 30 mins)

If you would like to take the survey, please click

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2HQ59HH>

Or, contact the researcher to arrange a telephone interview

(C.Parker1@salford.ac.uk)

Contacts

If you have any questions about this research, please contact:

C.Parker1@salford.ac.uk

If you wish to make a formal complaint about the conduct of this study, please forward your concerns to Professor Susan McAndrew, Chair of the Health Research Ethical Approval Panel, Room MS1.91, Mary Seacole Building, Frederick Road Campus, University of Salford, Salford, M6 6PU. Tel: 0161 295 2778. E: s.mcandrew@salford.ac.uk

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