



## COVID-19 PROJECT

### **Background & Scope/Purpose.**

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting 'lockdown'/social distancing measures has resulted in a considerable change in practice in how we work with individuals who have sustained an acquired brain injury (and their families/support networks). We are determining the support network as a significant other that is close to the client, but may not be a family member (e.g. friend, support worker).

To obtain the experiences of clients who have sustained an acquired brain injury, their families and case managers following the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Methodology.**

We intend to explore the above in the following ways:

**Stage 1. Focus groups with brain injury case managers (BICMs).** These will be kept to a maximum of 5 participants. Multiple focus groups can be run dependent on participant response. The focus groups will be facilitated by a student from Plymouth University and Ben Needham-Holmes (BABICM research sub-group member). A series of questions will be asked to stimulate discussion regarding the impact of COVID-19 on their clients, support networks and case management practice.

N.B. anyone who participates in the focus group will then be invited to complete stage 2 and 3 which is an interview between the BICM, their chosen client and family member/support network (if appropriate/applicable) and a follow up interview with a student from Plymouth University.

**Stage 2. Interview between BICM and their client and family members (if applicable/appropriate).** At the focus group stage, the BICMs will be asked if they would like to participate in the interview stage of the project. The interview will be completed on a 1-2-1 basis with the client and their family (if appropriate). Support will be provided to the BICM prior to the interview re how to structure the interview. The premise behind the BICM completing the first interview is that they have an already established rapport with the client/family member/support network and therefore we feel this will allow the client/support network to feel comfortable to respond to the questions. As with the focus groups, there will be a series of questions for the BICM to ask to stimulate discussion re the impact of COVID-19.

**Stage 3. Interview between Plymouth University student and client and/or family member.** A week post interview (stage 2); the client and/or family member will be interviewed by a Plymouth University student. The aim of this is twofold; 1) to reduce the potential bias of the client and/or family member responding to the BICMs question based on how they feel they should respond and 2) to offer a second interview stage whereby they can account for any

changes in or additional viewpoints that may have occurred after reflecting on the first interview. We have decided to choose a week following the first interview as it is hoped that ideas generated either from the interview itself or from reflecting on the interview will still be 'fresh' in the client and/or family/support networks mind.

We would record the focus groups and interviews, subject to consent being obtained. The videos will then be analysed by a Plymouth University student to draw out any themes.