## 2.a. Protocol

(2,500-word limit, 10-15 references)

**Please delete the writing in grey text as you complete your protocol.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Trainee name** | **Trainee number** |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Research Supervisor** | **Field Supervisor** |
|  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Title of the primary research study** |
|  |

**1. Background**

**What is known?**

*What is the relevant background knowledge base to your study?*

*What is the scale of the issue?*

*What is known already to inform the need for your study?*

**What is needed?**

*Who will benefit from your research – directly/indirectly in the short-/long-term?*

*Why does this research need to be done now?*

*What might your study tell us that we do not currently know? i.e., what is the added value to the literature and/or evidence-base?*

**What is the connection to clinical psychology?**

*What could the undertaking and/or future findings of your study influence, change or improve?*

**2. Aim and objectives**

*12-minute read:* [FINER: a Research Framework](https://scientific-publishing.webshop.elsevier.com/research-process/finer-research-framework/)

**2.1 Aim**

*What are you aiming to find out?*

**2.2 Objectives**

*What do you hope the project will achieve?*

**2.3 Research Question(s)**

**3. Method**

**3.1. Participants**

* *who are your population/participants?*
* *Inclusion/exclusion criteria*
* *How many? Include justification of numbers and power calculation/suitability of proposed sample size in relation to the qualitative method as appropriate.*
* *Where will you recruit participants from? How many recruitment sites? Recruitment methods?*

**3.2. Design**

* *Please state your overarching design and methodological approach, with a brief rationale (e.g., ANOVA, IPA, what principles have informed your chosen design?).*

**3.3. Procedure and materials**

* *What will be the process through which people participate in your study? What will be the steps? You may find it helpful to include a diagram using SmartArt.*
* *Will there be one or multiple stages/phases to the study?*
* *What materials will be used? E.g., Interviews, questionnaires, specific measures to be used etc., with a brief rationale.*

**3.4. Proposed analysis**

*Please state what methods of analysis you intend to use, with a brief rationale. State the analytic steps you will follow in this section.*

**3.5. Practical issues**

*E.g., Outline likely research costs, inclusivity and equality considerations, technology required (e.g., use of Teams, research specific social media accounts).*  [Research expenses – DClinPsy Handbook (lancs.ac.uk)](http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/dclinpsy/research-expenses/)

*Please mention here any issues specific to the project that are likely to need particular consideration (e.g. risk and/or participant care, health inequalities that may act as a barrier to participation, potential recruitment difficulties) and briefly state how you plan to address them (e.g., developing a* [distress protocol](https://svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2016-01-13/pdf_0.pdf) *to follow). The following resources may be helpful to review to inform your plans for discussion in supervision:*

* *For* [*Equity*](https://forequity.uk/)
* *Community Engagement* [*Toolkit*](file:///\\lancs\homes\44\parrysl\My%20Documents\•%09https:\outlook.office.com\mail\id\AAQkAGM4ZmJjYzI2LWJiZTktNDdlYy1hMzQwLTEyZGU2OTZhOTZiYwAQADtsdPhQB8BDuV5KpJNzHMo=%3factSwt=true)

**3.6. Ethics and Governance**

*Check what ethical approval(s) will you need. Have you checked your plans following appropriate guidance:*

### Do I need NHS Ethics approval?

### [Research Ethics | Lancaster University](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/research-services/research-integrity-ethics--governance/research-ethics/)

### [Data Management | Lancaster University](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/research-services/clinical-research--trials/clinical-trials-preparation/data-management/)

**3.7. Patient and public involvement**

*Engagement with diverse stakeholders (e.g., policy makers, care providers, service users) is essential for well-designed and practice-informed research in mental health. In this section, we would like to hear who you will engage with, how, and when to inform your thesis plans. If you have already engaged with stakeholders, please briefly outline what has been done and how your learning from the process has informed your research design and plans.*

* *Please refer to this* [*guidance*](https://www.rds-nw.nihr.ac.uk/public-involvement/) *on public engagement to inform your approach.*
* *The*[*UK Standards for Public Involvement in Research*](https://sites.google.com/nihr.ac.uk/pi-standards/home)*will also help develop your plans.*
* *You can find guidance on how to cost your plans with the* [*public participation in research.docx (live.com)*](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fview.officeapps.live.com%2Fop%2Fview.aspx%3Fsrc%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.lancaster.ac.uk%252Fshm%252Fstudy%252Fdoctoral_study%252Fdclinpsy%252Fonlinehandbook%252Fappendices%252Fpublic%252520participation%252520in%252520research.docx%26wdOrigin%3DBROWSELINK&data=05%7C01%7Cs.l.parry%40lancaster.ac.uk%7C50281c4513f844f6b10508db3cf22d03%7C9c9bcd11977a4e9ca9a0bc734090164a%7C0%7C0%7C638170783047013043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XmZ8fmNeBkHVJXcgXlL%2F9d0ErBGijwUIWApwPh%2BWdT4%3D&reserved=0) *guide in the DClinPsy programme handbook.*

*When considering your plans for stakeholder engagement/Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE), consider the organisational, experience-focused, and practical implications of your plans[[1]](#footnote-1), and refer to the resources in the PPIE teaching on Moodle.*

**4. Dissemination Plans**

* *How will the findings be communicated and to whom?*
* *How will you use different platforms and disseminate information in a range of accessible formats for key audiences?*

### [Disseminating Research | Lancaster University](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/library/open-research/disseminating-research/)

### [Ten simple rules for innovative dissemination of research](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7161944/)

**5. Plain English Summary**

*300 words*

*Guidance on how to write a Plain English Summary of a research project can be found* [*here*](https://arc-nenc.nihr.ac.uk/news/tips-for-writing-a-plain-english-summary/#:~:text=A%20Plain%20English%20summary%20is,to%20be%20more%20widely%20understood.)*. This section should not contain technical language, acronyms, or references. The development of this section at the end of your protocol will help you synthesis your ideas. An accessible summary is also helpful to share with stakeholders associated with your project and to inform your participant facing documents, including recruitment media.*

**6. References**

1. Boaz, A., Hanney, S., Borst, R. et al. (2018). How to engage stakeholders in research: design principles to support improvement. *Health Res Policy Sys 16*, 60. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-018-0337-6 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)