**Module: Applied Research 1 (PSY9015)**

**Service Related Project Proposal (SRP)**

For this  formative assignment, you should produce a competent and feasible proposal for a service related project which is relevant and of strategic importance to decision making and quality improvement in clinical psychology services. You should aim to use routinely collected clinical data (e.g. outcome evaluation questionnaires [PROMS], case notes review, patient pathway database, audit, patient experience of care/treatment [PREMS]); which can be evaluated to provide service improvement.  Routinely collected health data is “data collected without specific “a priori” research questions developed prior to utilisation for research”  (Benchimol et al., 2015, pg 2)

Supervision for the Service Related Project and Proposal is provided  by your Placement supervisor and/or Pauline .

**Competencies to be demonstrated/developed**

This assignment is an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills:

* Capacity to critically review, assess and synthesise a body of psychological knowledge related to a clinical project which includes: a literature review; rationale for the study; a justification of methods and protocols; and choice of analyses appropriate to the aims and design.
* Skills to choose and develop a feasible project in conjunction with supervisors.
* Competence in project management and planning showing awareness of professional and ethical frameworks, principles and protocols.

**Structure of the SRP**

Your Service-Related Project Proposal must include each of the following sections ensuring that you follow a framework for reporting such as RECORD (external site)  [http://record-statement.org/checklist.php (Links to an external site.)](http://record-statement.org/checklist.php" \t "_blank) (Benchimol et al., 2016; Benchimol et al., 2015):

1. Title and abstract

Indicate the study design in the title and provide an overview of what you did and what you found in the abstract.

1. Background rationale and objectives

This is where the theoretical, clinical, and service issues underlying the project are outlined. The introductory paragraph should outline the clinical issue(s) that your project addresses and the service related rationale for undertaking it. Next a relevant literature review using an integrated critical evaluation of the evidence base which is appropriately referenced should be provided. This should naturally lead to a rationale where the aims of the project are justified considering the relevant evidence identified via the literature review. The significance of your potential findings to the service should also be highlighted in this section and should conclude with an explicit statement of your project aims.

1. Method/Protocol

In this section you should precisely define the methods and procedures you intend to use.

1. *Participants*– for example, inclusion and exclusion criteria, justification of target sample size, method of recruitment, informed consent, where and how participants will be recruited.
2. *Materials/Apparatus*– for example, questionnaires to be used (describe nature of, reliability, validity), equipment, interview schedules, etc.

* *Design*– for example, qualitative, quantitative, control (e.g. pre-post; waiting list control; comparative treatment etc.) including all variables of interest.  A justification of whether ethical and/or governance approval is required or not.

1. *Procedure*– an account regarding the information related to the collection of data. Clearly define all outcomes, predictors, possible confounders. Give diagnostic criteria if relevant.
2. *Analysis*– an outline of the specific types of analyses that will be used for each project aim.
3. *Bias*– describe how potential sources of bias will be addressed at each stage.

1. References

Full reference list following APA guidelines

1. Appendices

Service-Related Project Registration Form

Proposed project timetable or Gantt chart

**Guidance notes:**

Your SRPP should **NOT** exceed **5 pages**(excluding cover page, references and appendices).

Submission for this proposal is normally in February within the first year of training.

Refer to the document “information about assessment and marking” for details of academic regulations and APA referencing guide.

University writing skills resources can be found here

[https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/learning/LearningResources/AcademicWriting/GeneralWritingResources/](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/learning/LearningResources/AcademicWriting/GeneralWritingResources/%20)

This assessment will not be formally marked. Rather a member of the course team will review your proposal and give you formative feedback on the content. We hope that the feedback will be helpful for enhancing the quality of the Small-scale Research Project report that you submit in year 2, which is a summative assessment.

**Bibliography**

Barker, C., Pistrang, N. and Elliott, R. (2002) Research Methods in Clinical Psychology: An Introduction for Students and Practitioners. Wiley & Sons, London.

Dempster, M. (2011) A Research Guide for Health and Clinical Psychology. Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke.

Dempster, M. and Hanna (2015) Research Methods in Psychology for Dummies. Wiley, Chichester

Hanna, D. and Dempster, M. (2012) Psychology Statistics for Dummies. Wiley, Chichester.

Marks, D. and Yardley, L. (2004) Research Methods for Clinical and Health Psychology. Sage Publications, London.

**Module: Applied Research 2 (PSY9021)**

**Service Related Project (SRP)**

Through conducting the **service-related project** it is hoped that trainees will develop the particular types of skills and competencies required for conducting research which informs practice in everyday clinical settings. This project will have been conducted as part of the Applied Research 1 module but is written-up and assessed as part of the Applied Research 2 module. This project needs to be submitted in the second year.

The Service-Related Project should address each of the following areas (although structure and section headings may vary):

1. ***Literature Review and Rationale for the Study***

This is where the theoretical, clinical, and service issues underlying the project are outlined. It should incorporate a relevant literature review, but always bearing in mind that the underlying purpose of this is to offer the **rationale/justification** for the hypotheses and questions of your own particular research project.

Essentially, in this section you need **to make explicit the research questions/hypotheses addressed by your research, and the rationale behind them**. It is in offering the rationale behind your research questions (e.g. exploring an association between some variables in a given population, auditing the performance of a service, evaluating the outcome of an intervention) that a *synthesis* of the research and knowledge base informing your hypotheses should be offered. The significance of your potential findings to the service should also be highlighted in this section.

This section should end with an explicit statement of your hypotheses/research questions.

1. ***Method/Protocol***

In this section you should precisely define the methods and procedures you intend to use. If appropriate, standard research method subsections could be used to organise this section. For example:

1. *Participants* – for example, sex, age, educational/social/marital status, inclusion and exclusion criteria, numbers, method of recruitment, informed consent, where participants are to be recruited from (and contacts established regarding this).
2. *Materials/Apparatus* – questionnaires to be used (describe nature of, reliability, validity), equipment etc.
3. *Design* – some examination of design to be used - qualitative, quantitative, control (e.g. pre-post; waiting list control; comparative treatment etc.) dependent and independent variables, how participants will be assigned to groups etc.
4. *Procedure* – usually an account of what will actually happen regarding the collection of data.
5. ***Analysis***

If the design involves straightforward analysis (e.g. ANOVAs etc.) this section can be dealt with very briefly. If more complex or less traditional methods of analyses are involved, then you should discuss these in some detail. In all cases you should consider how chosen methods of analyses are most suited to your research questions.

1. ***References***

Full reference list following APA guidelines

**Writing up the SRP**

The service-related project may be written as a report to the service. Trainees are encouraged to develop this way of presenting the project, where appropriate. The project might instead follow many of the conventions used in the presentation of research, but this is not a requirement. Issues of methodology, control, validity, statistical analyses etc. may require less stringent attention but care should be afforded here as far as the limitations of time, resources etc. permit. In all cases the rationale for the research, integration with the knowledge base, overview of methods, samples, a clear presentation of results and findings and a discussion of the latter etc. should occur. Implications for service provision should be explicit in the discussion. Trainees are encouraged to present specific recommendations to the service at the end of the project.

The word limit for the service-related project (SRP) is 5000 words. One of the skills assessed in the SRP is your ability to condense information and present it in a concise manner, so adherence to the word limit is important.

The SRP can be presented in a format suitable for publication in a professional journal, such as Clinical Psychology Forum. However, this is not a requirement.

If the SRP report does not contain a conceptual critique or a contextualising introduction, then such discussions should be presented in a *conceptual appendix* for evaluation purposes. A *technical appendix* may be required for detailed statistical or methodological procedures. A *reflective appendix*should also be included, in which you consider the skills and experiences accrued in the course of the SRP exercise (e.g. own thoughts about the contribution of this project to service/clinical practices, strengths and weaknesses both of methodology and personal research competencies, any ethical issues which arose etc.).

Please bear in mind that, as with all coursework, structure and presentation is also assessed in this exercise (see essay and case study guidelines).

**Submitting your SRP**

The SRP is submitted electronically and assessed using the forms in the Appendix. The feedback sheet should be inserted at the start of the report. All sections of the table on the feedback sheet should be completed.  Pages and Sections should be numbered.  The electronic copy should be saved as:  [student no] SERVICE RELATED PROJECT   (i.e.  907634 SERVICE RELATED PROJECT) and uploaded as a single document to Queen’s Online in the correct module under ‘assignment.’ Do NOT password protect your coursework submission.

Your service-based supervisor will be asked to comment on the project and, therefore, it is essential that you submit a draft copy of the project DIRECTLY to this supervisor. Your service-based supervisor might require you to make amendments to your project even if the project has been passed by the course. It is important that you work closely with your supervisor on these amendments, as part of your responsible professional practice.

A trainee who fails the SRP on first submission will be allowed an opportunity to submit a revised version. When producing this revised version, trainees should pay close attention to the feedback provided. Failure to attain a pass on resubmission will result in the trainee failing the module, which will have serious implications for progression on the course. Therefore, trainees should aim for quality in their SRP.