

# **RaPSS: Research Proposal**

## **Research Timetable**

The project will extend over 30 months. Progress will be reviewed on an on-going basis by the lead researcher and the national Advisory Group will also play a role in monitoring progress. The work can be divided into a number of stages but in practice these are likely to overlap.

**Start-up Phase:** Recruitment and appointment of Research Assistant and secretary. Identification of national Research Advisory Group members. Initiate process for obtaining ethical approvals.

**Months 1 -3:** Obtain ethical approvals. Design and produce information about the project for POPYRUS website. Seek feedback on project aims and plan of work via website. Complete and write up literature review. Contact HEIs and construct representative sample of cases for review. First meeting of national Advisory Group.

**Months 3 -20:** Design schedules for interviews in HEIs. Negotiate access to HEIs and obtain interviewees' agreement. Complete interview sets and search coroners' records on 40 case studies. Produce transcripts of interviews. POPYRUS administrator to maintain and develop website material. Second meeting of national Advisory Group.

**Months 20 -24:** Analyse case study transcripts and data from coroners' records. POPYRUS administrator to contact parents through membership list and seek agreement to participate in interviews.

**Months 24 -27:** Complete interviews with parents and analyse data.

**Months 27 -30:** Final meeting of national Advisory Group. Produce good practice guidelines for HEIs. Undertake consultation on guidelines through website and Advisory group. Produce project report and disseminate through conferences and web site. Produce range of material targeted on full range of stakeholders. Produce model for training programme.

**Follow-Through:** POPYRUS to continue to maintain website. POPYRUS members to deliver training package to HEI staff and student union officers. Research team to continue to produce articles and presentations for range of audiences.

## Dissemination

The dissemination strategy will build on the researchers' track record in disseminating research findings out into policy, practice and service user communities. Combined with the experience and expertise which PAPYRUS has developed through its campaigning work, this should ensure that research outcomes are targeted at a wide range of relevant groups. The dissemination strategy will include:

- early information and consultation through the PAPYRUS website;
- a full research report to be available on the PAPYRUS website and also distributed in hard version and in summary form;
- production of material for other stakeholders, including student newspapers, voluntary sector groups and practitioner journals;
- writing and piloting of training materials for use by PAPYRUS members in their educational and raising awareness programmes for HEIs;
- a range of research articles in publications targeted on practitioners in student services, HEIs and the helping professions;
- publications in broader outlets such as MIND's journal, the *Times Higher Educational Supplement*, *The Guardian* and student media;
- presentations at a range of conferences and workshops.

The material produced will be circulated for comment within the Research Advisory Group. We anticipated that this group will also contribute to the dissemination strategy through their experience and contacts. PAPYRUS has experience of hosting conferences and it is anticipated that the PAPYRUS administrator will take responsibility for organising a conference or seminar in the third year of the project. This will be one outlet for feeding research back to members (although the PAPYRUS newsletter and website will also perform this function throughout the life of the project). PAPYRUS has also worked closely with other organisations and voluntary groups and may run a joint conference if appropriate. Other relevant conferences may include those planned around the National Service Framework for Mental Health and the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, those run by the Samaritans and those organised by HEI administrators and support staff. Conferences aimed at Student Union officers, particularly welfare staff, will also be appropriate. The research team have considerable experience of delivering workshops and training sessions on student mental health needs to such audiences.