

# SPRiG

## Sussex Psychosis Research interest Group



Sussex Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust

US  
University of Sussex

brighton and sussex  
medical school

### SPRiG MEMBER FEEDBACK JUNE/JULY 2011

In June/July 2011, SPRiG members were invited to complete a short survey giving their feedback on SPRiG and SPRiG activities. Twenty-nine members completed the survey at this time. There were lots of constructive comments and we have picked out some of the main points, and what we are doing about them. SPRiG is a small, but growing, research group with limited resources and so it is not currently possible to action all suggestions and comments but a summary of our intended actions in response to this feedback is provided at the end. Thank you to all those who contributed their views.

### Findings

#### 1. SPRiG Monthly Seminars

Sixty seven percent of respondents (67%) indicated that they had attended at least one SPRiG seminar previously. Positive feedback from members included that the seminars were well attended and well presented. The majority of respondents stated that the seminars were interesting and informative. Several members commented that their attendance was increasing their knowledge regarding psychosis, mental health problems and research methodology.

Whilst a number of respondents expressed satisfaction with the choice of speakers for SPRiG presentations, some respondents indicated that they felt the seminars had been 'too medical' in focus and not welcoming enough of service user members and lived experience experts.

#### Actions:

- We aim to achieve a balance of SPRiG seminars and presentations with a service user focus, a psychiatric focus, and a psychological focus.
- We are inviting speakers from more service user-focused projects to present at SPRiG seminars in October and November 2011. We welcome speaker suggestions from all SPRiG members.

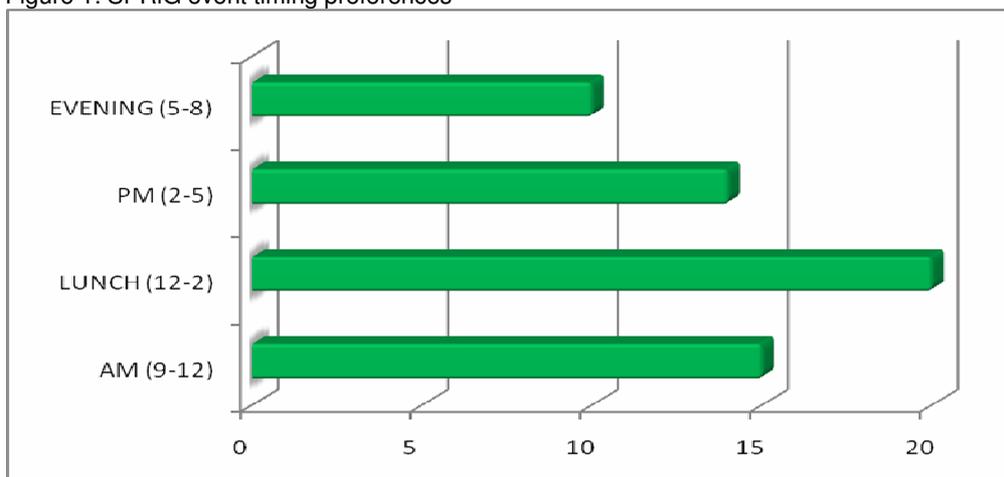
#### 2. SPRiG Monthly Seminar Timing

Although some members reported that they could not attend the current SPRiG seminar timeslot (12-1pm on the last Friday of every month), the majority of members indicated that a lunchtime slot was preferable. When asked what days they could not attend SPRiG events, the majority of participants stated that Tuesday or Friday was preferable, with several participants stating that the current timeslot is best.

#### Action:

- We will maintain the SPRiG seminar timeslot of 12-1pm on the last Friday of every month.

Figure 1: SPRiG event timing preferences



### 3. Future SPRiG Support and Events

When asked what support SPRiG could provide to its members, the majority of respondents stated that they would value more opportunities to network with researchers and clinicians. Respondents also stated that they would value support with the generation of research ideas, proposals and funding applications.

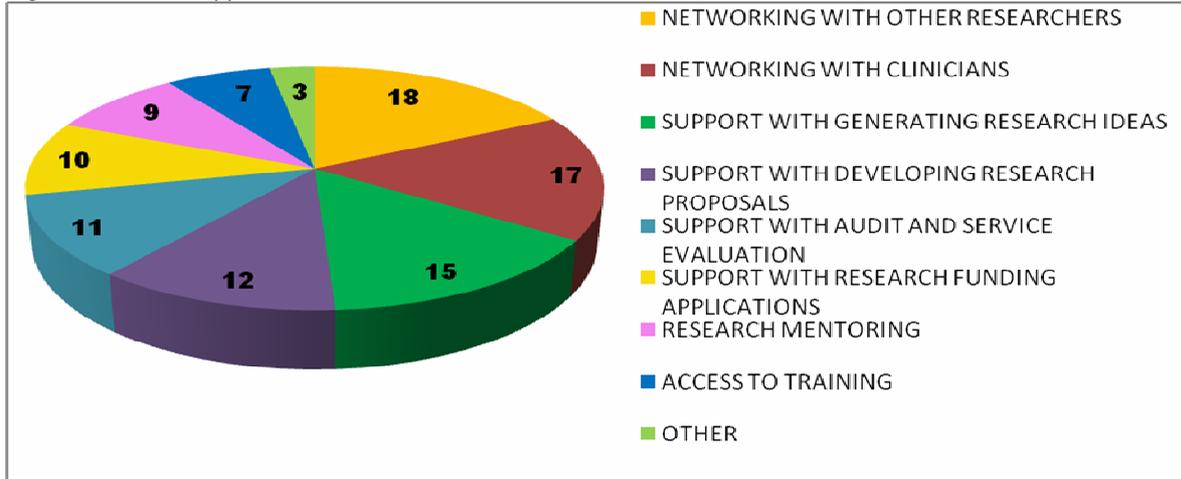
Where respondents indicated training or other activities, respondents mentioned training around mental health needs of forensic service users and keeping up-to-date with current research. The contribution of SPRiG members to training for lived experience experts and peer researchers was mentioned as a valued previous activity.

When asked what SPRiG events respondents would value in the future, the majority of respondents stated they would value a service user forum, a half day teaching event and a networking event.

**Actions:**

- **We aim to hold a networking event for SPRiG members and researchers in late 2011 or early 2012.**
- **We will look into hosting a training event for SPRiG members in 2011/2012.**

Figure 2: SPRiG support



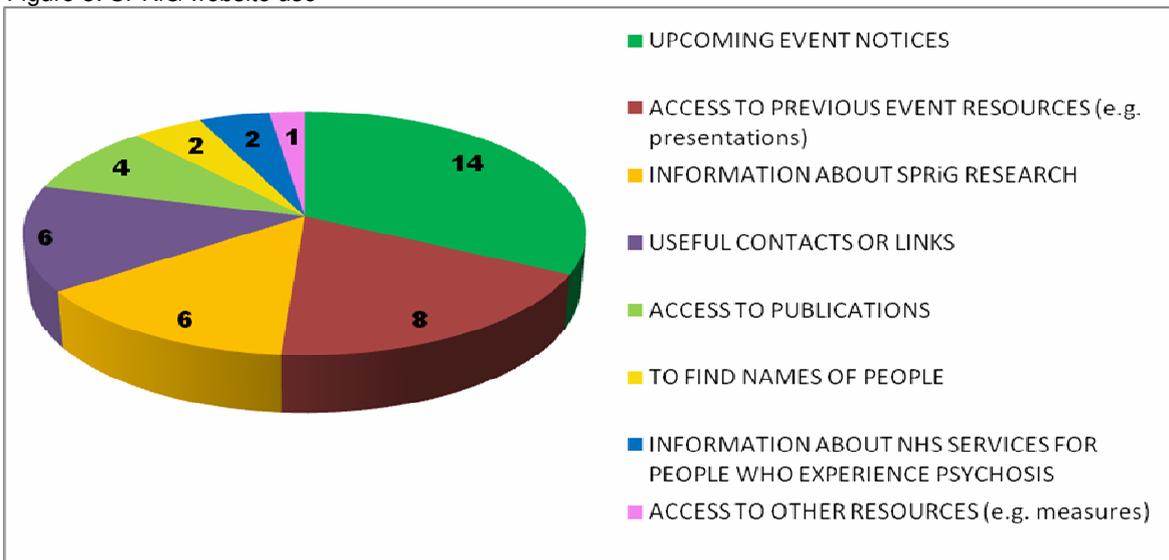
### 4. SPRiG Website ([www.sussex.ac.uk/spriglab](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/spriglab))

Seventy three percent of respondents (73%) had accessed the SPRiG website previously and the majority of people had used the website for notices about upcoming events. Members also reported using the site to find information about SPRiG and to access publications. Data from the website itself indicates that there have been over 500 page views in the past month, with the most viewed pages being the publications, SPRiG research and people pages. Suggestions for improvements to the website included representations of alternative models of psychosis and greater acknowledgement of SPRiG’s service user and lived experience expert members.

**Actions:**

- **We will include links to alternative models of psychosis on the SPRiG website.**
- **We will provide greater acknowledgement of the value of lived experience experts on the SPRiG website, including the creation of a forum for service users to post research ideas and priorities.**

Figure 3: SPRiG website use



## **General Comments**

### ***Parking***

A number of respondents commented on the University of Sussex parking regulations as off-putting in relation to attendance at SPRiG presentations. Unfortunately, the parking regulations are not under our control. We aim to continue to host approximately half our events at the University of Sussex in recognition of SPRiG's members from the University of Sussex and Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

However, we have provided a number of parking permits for purchase from the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Research and Development Team (please contact 01273 265896 for availability). These parking permits allow SPRiG members to park for the University of Sussex staff rate (£2), rather than as external visitors (£6). In addition, the University of Sussex is also well served by public transport, and is accessible by train and regular bus services operating on multiple routes (5B, 23, 25, 28, 29, 29B, 84).

#### **Action:**

- **We will continue to provide parking permits allowing cheaper University of Sussex parking for SPRiG events (£2 compared to £6 if purchased on site). Please contact the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Research and Development Team (01273 265896) for availability.**

### ***Areas for Development***

Findings from the feedback survey suggest that there are two main areas for SPRiG to develop over the coming year. First, some members have suggested that there has not been enough representation of service users' experience. We aim to acknowledge the contribution of lived experience experts and service users to SPRiG through our website and presentations over the next year. Many respondents indicated that they would value a SPRiG service user forum, however, due to the two service user research forums that are currently hosted by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LEAF and SURF), we need to consider how to maximise service user involvement in SPRiG and psychosis research, whilst being mindful of the current contribution and activity of these existing forums. Secondly, members have suggested that there is a need for SPRiG to provide more networking opportunities for its members. Opportunities for networking will be one of our priorities in the coming year.

#### **Actions:**

- **We will provide greater acknowledgement of the value of lived experience experts on the SPRiG website, including the creation of a forum for service users to post research ideas and priorities.**
- **We aim to achieve a balance of SPRiG seminars and presentations with a service user focus, a psychiatric focus, and a psychological focus.**

## **Summary of Actions**

Our resources for SPRiG are limited and unfortunately it is not possible at present for us to action all suggestions and comments from our members. However, we appreciate the identification of important areas for development and our intended actions over the coming year are summarised below:

- **We will maintain the SPRiG seminar timeslot of 12-1pm on the last Friday of every month.**
- **We aim to achieve a balance of SPRiG seminars and presentations with a service user focus, a psychiatric focus, and a psychological focus.**
- **We are inviting speakers from more service user-focused projects to present at SPRiG seminars in October and November 2011. We welcome speaker suggestions from all SPRiG members.**
- **We will provide greater acknowledgement of the value of lived experience experts on the SPRiG website, including the creation of a forum for service users to post research ideas and priorities.**
- **We will include links to alternative models of psychosis on the SPRiG website.**
- **We aim to hold a networking event for SPRiG members and researchers in late 2011 or early 2012.**
- **We will look into hosting a training event for SPRiG members in 2011/2012.**
- **We will continue to host events at both University of Sussex and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. We will continue to provide parking permits allowing cheaper University of Sussex parking for SPRiG events (£2 compared to £6 for external visitors). Please contact the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Research and Development Team (01273 265896) for availability.**

## **Speaker Suggestions**

We are interested in receiving suggestions for speakers from all SPriG members. Speakers should be able to present current or upcoming research that is either psychosis-specific, or uses a methodology that would be of interest in psychosis-related research. Please email any suggestions to Clio Berry ([c.berry@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:c.berry@sussex.ac.uk)).

## **Contacts**

For discussions relating to support with research proposals and research funding applications, please contact Dr. Kathryn Greenwood ([k.e.greenwood@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:k.e.greenwood@sussex.ac.uk)).

Please contact Clio Berry ([c.berry@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:c.berry@sussex.ac.uk)) if you wish to provide feedback, suggestions, publication information or resources for the SPriG website or to add your name to the SPriG mailing list. Please also contact Clio Berry if you would be interested in becoming involved in SPriG research on a voluntary basis.