Appendix 2

**Patient and public involvement**

Our patient and carer advisory members were involved throughout the research process. Our panel collaboratively developed the initial research and survey questions. Initial analyses of patient data conducted by the PPI panel also informed the staff study. Two panel members (EM, SA) with lived experience in this area reviewed the results, contributed to interpretation, and are co-authors. This research was also reviewed by a team with experience of mental health problems and their carers who have been specially trained to advise on research proposals and documentation through the Feasibility and Acceptability Support Team for Researchers (FAST-R): a free, confidential service in England provided by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) funded Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre via King’s College London and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. There was patient and public involvement input into our dissemination plan, which includes communicating key findings to relevant patient groups, carers, and mental health services.

**Additional methodological details**

LQ (Chartered Psychologist / Research Fellow) conducted interviews in-person at hospitals and by telephone. Interviews lasted between 30 and 90 minutes. Recruitment was complete when we gained comprehensive data that considered divergent views across services within study deadlines. Interviews were audio recorded and transcribed by a University of Manchester approved third party transcription service. Results were discussed by researchers and clinicians from different backgrounds (qualitative expertise, psychiatry, health services research, nursing) and public contributors to enable triangulation of views and a richer understanding of the data. The nomenclature used for quotations is part of a pseudo anonymised coding system: S refers to site, and the P refers to the participant number at that site.

Pragmatist approach

Pragmatism1 is a solution focussed approach that emphases selecting the most important methods for the research question. The focus is on translating research into actionable change.

Sampling

We recruited participants from randomly selected hospital sites derived from a previous study (see methods). We purposively sought to gain alternative insights/ examples of practice from different team members and/or additional services where possible. Therefore, in total, 39 services (random sample of 32 hospitals plus seven additional services) were invited to take part in the study (March 2019- December 2020). Six sites did not take part, predominately due to lack of research capability and capacity at hospitals, resulting in 33 participating services. One interview was excluded because the participant did not have experience of working in liaison psychiatry, resulting in a total of 32 services. The final sample included 51 mental health practitioners working in 32 liaison psychiatry services around England.

Eligibility criteria

Clinicians were eligible to take part if they had experience of providing psychosocial assessments and/or psychological therapy to people who have harmed themselves.

**References**

1. Kaushik V and Walsh CA. (2019) Pragmatism as a research paradigm and its implications for social work research. *Social sciences*, 8, 255.