



Request for Tender for Project Lead

Title of Report: Good Practice Guidelines for Working with the Traveller Community

Project Description

In light of the high rates of mental health difficulties, suicidality, and disability within the Traveller community, the PSI are seeking to develop Good Practice Guidelines to support members to better understand, engage with, and support members of the Traveller community in their clinical and research work. The PSI are recruiting a Project Lead who will work closely with both the PSI project steering team and representatives of the Traveller community.

Job Description

Qualifications:

- Educational Background: A degree in Psychology, Social Sciences, Anthropology, Public Health, or related field. A Master's degree is preferred.
- Experience: Proven experience in conducting primary research and developing practice guidelines, preferably with marginalized or minority communities.
- Skills:
 - Strong analytical and synthesis skills.
 - Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
 - Ability to work independently and collaboratively.
 - Cultural sensitivity and understanding of the Traveller community.

Key Responsibilities:

- Collect, review, and synthesize existing research (ensuring inclusion of reports conducted out by the community) on the mental health related needs of the Traveller community, including culturally sensitive practices and health disparities
- Build respectful, collaborative relationships with members of the Traveller community to ensure all work reflects their lived experiences, cultural identity, and specific mental health needs.
- Conduct a comprehensive review and synthesis of existing research on the mental health of the Traveller community, including reports and studies led by or in partnership with the community.
- Develop culturally sensitive, evidence-informed practice guidelines to support psychologists and researchers working with the Traveller community.

- Co-develop resources and guidance in partnership with Traveller representatives and relevant community organisations, ensuring authenticity and trust are maintained throughout the process.
- Produce a high-quality, standalone report tailored specifically for psychologists, clearly outlining culturally responsive approaches and practical recommendations.
- Translate complex research findings into accessible, actionable guidance for PSI members and the broader psychological community.
- Design and deliver a training session or workshop at the 2026 PSI Conference, focused on culturally competent engagement and research with the Traveller community.
- Engage with both PSI members and non-members to foster inclusive dialogue around culturally responsive psychological practice.
- Collaborate with stakeholders across the mental health and community sectors to validate findings and ensure the relevance of developed resources.
- Contribute to improving the cultural competence of the psychology profession in Ireland by aligning all work with PSI's commitment to equity, inclusion, and human rights.

PSI is an equal opportunities organisation, and especially welcome applications from members of the Traveller community.

Remuneration will be according to an agreed payment schedule and in line with the agreed Researcher Salary pay scale at the grade of Research Assistant.

Quality Assurance Processes

This project will be managed in compliance with the governance standards of the Psychological Society of Ireland, [The PSI Constitution](#), the [Code of Professional Ethics of the PSI](#), and the [PSI Strategic Plan 2024-2026](#) with best practice in conducting research (IUA, 2019), and in protection of personal data (GDPR, 2018; Data Protection Acts 1988-2018).

Please reference previously published PSI Practice Guidelines for working with diverse communities published by the PSI for reference on the structure and style of the Guidelines:

- [PSI Good Practice Guidelines for Working with Transgender and Gender Non-Binary People](#) (2024)
- [PSI Professional Practice Guidelines for the Assessment, Formulation, and Diagnosis of Autism in Children and Adolescents](#), 2nd Edition (2022)
- [PSI Guidelines for Good Practice with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Clients](#) (2015)

How to Apply

Please send your CV and cover letter expressing your interest and qualifications for the position to policy@psychologicalsociety.ie by Wednesday 1 October 2025.

The five phases of this project, from Project Planning and Groundwork through to Report Writing and Dissemination, will be informed by evidence-based approaches to research design and contemporary governance frameworks and guidelines to support the delivery of a high-quality project (Yadav, 2022). The project will be informed by other relevant guidelines, including Public and Patient engagement.

Proposed Project Plan

Phase & Timeline	Action	Details	Per day time allocation
Phase 1 Project Planning and Groundwork	1.1 Initial meeting of project coordinators	Identify Define parameters of project	Researcher: 3 days
	1.2 Roles / contributions	Discuss and initial agreements of contributions of PSI, Steering Group and Research Team Agree role of Research Lead Agree role of PPI Budget negotiations with PSI	
	1.3 Establishment of PSI steering group		
	1.4 Recruitment of Research Project lead	Recruitment member of Traveller community with appropriate skill set	
	1.5 On boarding of Research Lead	Discuss and agree roles and contributions of: Research Lead, PSI, Steering Group and Research Team Agree role of PPI	
Phase 2 Desk based review, Project design, research ethics	2.1 Review of literature		Researcher: 8 days
	2.2 Project design	Qualitative research design Perhaps focus groups / interviews with members of Traveller community and psychology community?	
	2.3 Public Patient Engagement	- Commence recruitment of contributors in line with PPI	

		guidance and agreed approach - Establish partnership agreement with PPI contributor/s setting out expectations, recognition and role (HSE, 2021)	
	2.4 Apply for research ethics – if doing a peer reviewed piece - and I think we should (we can use UL EHS REC)	Either way, we will need accessible information materials about the project	
Phase 3 Data collection / Field work	3.1 Recruitment of participants for focus groups and site preparation	Research ethics approval	Researcher: 8 days
	3.2 Focus groups / interviews / meetings		
	3.3 other - depending on researcher, PPI and project design.		
	3.4 Check in meeting	Review: - Progress - Budget - GANTT chart Risk assessment for stage of project	
Phase 4 Data analysis & synthesis	4.1 Data analysis Focus Groups / Interviews		Researcher: 8 days
	4.2 Data analysis Literature review		
	4.3 Data synthesis		
	4.4 Check in meeting	Review: - Progress - Budget - GANTT chart - Risk assessment for stage of project	

Phase 5 Write up & Dissemination - Practice Guide - Peer reviewed paper?	5.1 Write up draft of executive summary, Good Practice Guide	In line with agreements, seek feedback from PPI and other stakeholders	Researcher:
	5.2 Dissemination event/s	Launch of Practice Guide, training workshops for members.	11 days
	Prepare manuscript for publication (this could be a write up on the process of developing the practice guide – which may introduce the guide to the evidence base)		Research Team: