The ISPS UK Residential Conference takes place every two years and is a great opportunity to catch up with the latest thinking in research and practice that supports psychological and social approaches to working with people experiencing psychosis.

**Therapeutic Relationships**

*Challenges for mental health services and those who use them*

**Speakers include:** Gwen Adshead, Marcus Evans, Suman Fernando, Mark Hopfenbeck, Eleanor Longden, Rose McCabe, Silje Marie Strandberg and Lone Viste Fagerland

**Call for Papers**

*Proposals invited for papers, workshops and posters around the conference themes.*

**Closing date for proposals: 31 January 2016**

The broad theme of the conference is **therapeutic relationships**; this arises out of concern that for people experiencing psychosis many things frequently get in the way of therapeutic relationships with mental health practitioners despite these being a crucial part of care. NICE guidelines recommend ‘best practice’ based on a ‘model’ of care. However there is considerable evidence that the therapeutic relationship is at least as important as the approach used and for many peer led support has been invaluable. Engaging and working in a helpful way with families and friends is also of key importance.

In this conference experts by experience, family members, friends and professionals from multiple and varied backgrounds will come together to consider the importance of the therapeutic relationship throughout the lived experience of psychosis. We are aiming for the conference to offer participants an opportunity to focus on how to manage these challenges, and to go away informed and inspired.
Topics we hope to cover include:

- Personal accounts of what can help/hinder the development of therapeutic relationships
- How organisations can help/hinder the development of therapeutic relationships
  Specific difficulties in this area experienced by members of black and minority ethnic groups
- Open Dialogue approaches
- Compassion - for others, ourselves and our experiences
- Attachment theory – how this may help us understand relationships
- A focus on the specifics of interactions between professionals and people with lived experience – what can we learn from this

We welcome proposals for workshops, papers and posters on the conference theme and related topics

All proposals

Abstracts are accepted on the condition that presenting author(s) will register for the conference. They should be in English, in typescript, and no more than 250 words in total; including any references, any description of the approach to be used etc.

They should include:

- The title of the paper, poster or workshop.
- For the author and all co-authors, full name, title, affiliations.
- For the corresponding author, contact e-mail address, day-time telephone number and postal address.
- A clear statement of the topic to be covered and a concise summary of key points.
- If you are describing research, the abstract should follow a conventional structure (aim, methods, results, discussion and conclusion), and should include a summary of findings. Research abstracts which do not include findings will not be accepted. New research presentations will be accepted on the understanding that appropriate ethical standards will have been adhered to.
- Please select up to 5 key words which describe the content of your presentation.
- For workshops, please include information about objectives and teaching approaches. There is an understanding that workshops will be participatory and encourage open discussion.

Preferred format and length

Paper: 15-30 minutes
Workshop: 1-1.5 hours
Symposium (linked papers): 1-1.5 hours
Posters: Each poster having A1 space allocated for presentation

Closing date

31 January 2016
Please submit abstracts to Ali Haddock at conference@ispsuk.org

Selection of presentations

Decisions will be based on the quality of the abstract, and abstracts of presentations accepted for the event will be published in a conference booklet. As there will be a limited number of oral presentations, you may be invited to present your material as a poster.

Final date for notification of decision: 22 March 2016