

## **2011 Bamford Implementation Commissioned Call**

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**Title of research project:** A natural experiment investigating differences in how residential facilities support people with intellectual disabilities with challenging behaviour and/or mental health problems

**Abstract:** Around 2,000 people with intellectual disabilities (ID) live in various supported residential facilities in NI. Significant numbers (36%) display challenging behaviours/mental health problems (CBMH). Estimates from 3 hospitals suggest over a 24-month period 170 people are admitted or readmitted from residential settings because of CBMH. Some residential facilities can support people with CBMH but in other similar settings the placements of people with CBMH break down. The proposed research question is: “What are the key factors in residential facilities that prevent hospital admission for people with ID and CBMH, in comparison to similar facilities from which people are admitted to hospital? Past research suggests that staffing issues are a major influence. The proposed research has two stages. Stage one is a natural experiment that will compare residential staff for people admitted to hospital because of CBMH (control group; CG, n=340) with the intervention group (IG, n=340) being matched staff who support clients in their residences without the need for hospital admission. It is hypothesised that management/staff in IG facilities have: Greater knowledge on the causes of CBMH, More positive emotional reactions to CBMH, Higher confidence in dealing with CBMH, More effective resources, organisation, management and leadership support systems. Stage two would involve qualitative Interviews with 40-45 clients, staff and family members from all HSC Trusts in NI along with 15 participants drawn from effective residential settings in Camden and Islington Foundation Trust, London. The aim is to gain deeper insights on what staff and service users experience as effective supports for people with CBMH and to check convergent validity with stage one results. Outcomes: The features of the most effective residential settings to support ID people with CBMH will be identified which will assist with service commissioning and reviews, and the training of support staff.