

Rethinking Schizophrenia and Quality-of-Life

Lived experience engagement project: quality-of-life of people living with schizophrenia

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why are you doing this project?

We recognise that people living with schizophrenia experience a range of individualised symptoms.

By schizophrenia we mean a form of psychosis where somebody has a combination of symptoms that can include:

- *Hallucinations*
- *Difficulties in thinking*
- *Delusions or unusual beliefs not based on reality*
- *Difficulties with communication*

We are looking at the way symptoms of schizophrenia can differ for people who have a diagnosis of schizophrenia.

Our aim is to find out what it means for people living with schizophrenia to achieve and maintain wellbeing and live the fullest life possible.

We hope to use this information to help influence decision-makers to make improvements to the support people living with schizophrenia receive.

2. Who is Rethink Mental Illness?

Rethink Mental Illness (www.rethink.org) is a leading charity provider of mental health services in England, putting people severely affected by mental illness and those who care for them at the heart of everything we do. People with lived experience shape many of our services, are involved in influencing our policy and campaigning work, and participate in external lived experience engagement projects such as this one.

3. Who is funding the project?

The project is being funded by a company called Boehringer Ingelheim which is a global, research-led pharmaceutical company based in Ingelheim, Germany. Boehringer Ingelheim is working on breakthrough therapies that transform lives, today and for generations to come. As a leading research-driven biopharmaceutical company, the company creates value through innovation in areas of high unmet medical need.

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This project is funded by Boehringer Ingelheim Limited to support Rethink Mental Illness's work in understanding more about the experiences of those living with schizophrenia. The final report will be fully anonymised and will not contain any personal data, and will be shared with Boehringer for information only. Rethink Mental Illness have full editorial control of all content, which is reviewed by Boehringer in line with the ABPI (Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry) Code of Practice. The independence of Rethink Mental Illness is maintained.



Founded in 1885 and family-owned ever since, Boehringer Ingelheim takes a long-term perspective.

The company focuses on developing drug therapies in areas such as cardiovascular health, oncology, respiratory, metabolic diseases, immunology, and retinal health. The company have made a long-term, generational commitment to transform the mental health treatments.

Boehringer Ingelheim's sustainability framework entitled "Sustainable Development for Generations" is based on three pillars: More Health for people and animals, More Potential for good health and More Green for the planet. Boehringer strives to embed them into their core business, which is uniquely positioned to address the intertwined connection between humans, animals, and the environment.

4. What is the funder's involvement?

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5. How will you use my data?

*With your permission, we will write notes during engagement sessions. These notes will contain your initials, but then will be **anonymised** when sharing beyond our team. This means the report will not have your name, or any identifying information with them, unless you specifically ask for that.*

*Rethink Mental Illness staff will be the only people who can see these notes and **they will not be shared with Boehringer Ingelheim.***

We may also use anonymised insights you've given in the future to inform other work we do, for people severely affected by mental illness.

If you were to tell us something which made us concerned for your, or someone else's immediate safety, we would have to share this information with the relevant authorities. We would talk this through with you first, where it is possible and safe to do so.

Please see the Rethink Mental Illness Privacy Policy at [Privacy \(rethink.org\)](https://www.rethink.org/privacy) for information about how we use and store your data.

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