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# Using Photo Elicitation to Study a Novel In-reach Rehabilitation and Recovery Mental Health Service.

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*Because every picture has a story to tell...*

## Research question:

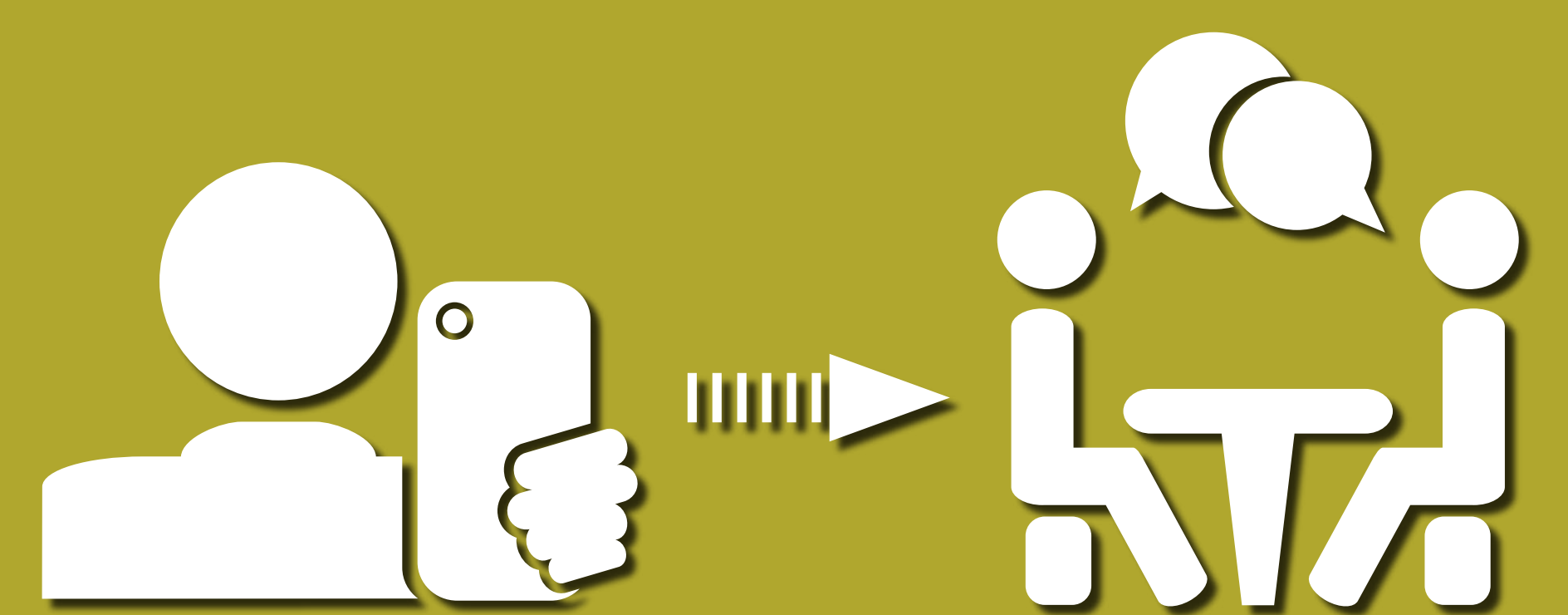
***"What are the experiences of service users and staff who use or work within a novel in-reach Rehabilitation and Recovery Service for people with severe and enduring mental health needs?"***

In 2014, to create less reliance on in-patient care, Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust redesigned services for people with severe and enduring mental health problems. NHS in-patient and community voluntary sectors were brought together to form a novel in-reach Rehabilitation and Recovery Service (R&R) involving full application of recovery-focused principles, collaborative training plans, and shared knowledge and clinical skills.

**Aims:** The aim of this research is to provide an in-depth understanding of the R&R Service from the perspective of both service users and staff.

**Method:** Photo elicitation is being conducted with a purposive sample of service users and staff to enrich data collection through one-to-one semi-structured interviews to explore their experiences of the Service. Interviews were analysed using the thematic, qualitative method of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis.

**Photo elicitation** is a creative method in which participants are invited to take photographs relevant to the study and then asked to bring them to an interview for discussion.



## Main findings:

The main themes include:

- (a) The role of relationships in recovery.
- (b) Different approaches to the concept of 'recovery'.
- (c) The importance of meaning-making in participants' lives.
- (d) Resilience is a contributing factor in recovery.

## Conclusions:

- ✓ Photography is well suited to working with vulnerable people and R&R staff.
- ✓ Participants have engaged deeply with the interview process, describing the method as surprisingly evocative.
- ✓ Participants have provided extremely interesting information, enjoyed the process, and discussed photographs on a sophisticated metaphorical level.

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