

# Pre-Doctoral Fellowship: Social work with transgender and gender diverse service users

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## INTRODUCTION

Social work with transgender and gender diverse (TGD) adults is an under-researched area of practice, and this project has implications for both social work practitioners and TGD service users.

Transgender and gender diverse adults can experience great difficulty accessing health and social care services and encounter discrimination, harassment, and oppression while doing so.

## COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

- Supervision at University of Manchester
- Social Care Research Forum
- Community of Practice
- ARC-GM Quarterly Meetings
- Social Work History Forum
- Evaluations of ARC-GM and ARC-KSS Capacity Building Programmes

## CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

*Submitted abstracts to and presented initial scoping review findings at two conferences*

Joint University Social Work Association (Preston, UK - June 2025)

Sexuality and Social Work (Ljubljana, Slovenia - July 2025)

## PLAN FOR PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

- Trans Theory and Sexuality Summer School at the University of Manchester
- Submission to Sexuality and Social Work Conference
- Public and Community Involvement and Engagement



## SCOPING REVIEW

*Mapped existing literature on social work intervention with TGD adults and organised according to themes*

*Conducted searches using relevant terms - variations on "social work", "transgender", and "gender affirming care"*

### Themes

- Institutional violence
- Advocacy
- Epistemic peerhood
- Importance of norm-critical approaches
- Cultural competence
- Peer and kinship

## PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

- Focus on transgender and gender diverse adults' experiences with social work services
- Ongoing support from and liaison with the LGBT Foundation to distribute a call for participants TGD adults
- Participants will be invited to discuss the project in more detail and provide feedback on ideas for recruitment and design

## TRANS THEORY & SEXUALITY SUMMER SCHOOL

- **Trans Theory** grounded the project in trans studies and trans politics and provided an appreciation of the difference between the L, G, B, T, and Q
- The **Sexuality Summer School** explored intergenerationality across different contexts and discourses, through objects and subjects of sex, sexuality, and gender

*With thanks to Dr Gareth Gavin, the Sexuality Summer School, and my fellow postgraduates and peers.*

## WORKPLACE ACTIVITIES

- Contributed to the local authority's Care Quality Commission assessment (October 2025) and discussed the Pre-Doctoral Fellowship
- Attended Inclusion Board and contributed to their outputs around equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Hoping to speak to social work practitioners about my project as part of involvement and inclusion work
- Plan to try and widen research participation across Adult Care Services

## NEXT STEPS

- Pre-Doctoral Fellowship extended to March 2026
- Scoping review in progress
- Public and Community Involvement work to continue
- GMSWA - World Social Work Week 2026
- Plan to apply for an NIHR Doctoral Fellowship

