

**Samantha Guymer**  
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21<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Ms Guymer,

**Study title: CQC Community Mental Health Survey 2021 (CMH21)**

**Date submitted: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### **Ethical opinion**

Approval was sought for an amended, 2021 version of the study with adjustments to sampling, the questionnaire, and the documentation. Many of the amendments were to accommodate the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on patients and the delivery of care. The documents reviewed are noted below.

The documents and the changes raise no ethical issues which are not reasonably handled and justified in the application documents. I am happy to give a favourable ethical opinion of the study on the basis described in the Ethics Application form and supporting documentation.

In particular, I note that in the previous iteration of the Survey the committee queried the safeguarding processes and suggested that further thought might be given to directing respondents to an independent organisation in such cases. I am satisfied that this route has been appropriately considered in the 2021 version of the Survey, that the CQC processes are well-established and thorough and that the safeguarding processes as outline are clear and robust.

### **Committee Process**

The CQC's Independent Ethics Review Panel is tasked with reviewing studies commissioned by the CQC. It is chaired by Dr Mark Sheehan and includes Nigel Booth (Lay member) and Dr Gary Abel (Statistician). In accordance with its operating procedures, the full Panel reviews research studies which are new and have not been reviewed by the panel or its precursor. Amended, updated, or previously reviewed research studies are reviewed by the Chair.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mark Sheehan  
Chair  
On behalf of the CQC's Independent Ethics Review Panel

**Documents Reviewed and Approved:**

- CMH21\_\_Multilanguage sheet\_V1
- CMH21\_Dissent document\_\_V2
- CMH21\_Questionnaire\_V1
- CMH21\_Dissent poster\_V1
- CMH21\_Safeguarding procedures\_V1
- CMH21\_First mailing letter\_V1
- CMH21\_Second reminder letter\_V1
- CMH21\_Third mailing letter\_V1
- CMH21\_2020 Sampling instructions\_V1\_ (2021 version is being drafted)
- CMH21\_2020 Survey handbook\_V1 (2021 version is currently being drafted)
- CMH21\_Data flow diagram - post codes\_V1
- CMH21\_2020 Ethics Committee Approval Email
- 19.CAG.0206 (2020 CAG Section 251 approval letter)