

## **Changing Faces' position on enquiries from researchers**

*Changing Faces* receives a steady flow of enquiries from academics around the world asking us to support their application for funding, to fund their project, and/or to advise on or become involved in their research.

*Changing Faces* is supportive of all research into improving the lives of those with disfigurements, but the charity is not a research organisation, nor are we able to offer funding at this time.

### **Advice**

For a six-month trial period (from July 2010), the Chair of the *Changing Faces* Research Council, Dr Richard Lansdown (a retired Consultant Psychologist), has kindly offered to consider research projects, to offer methodological and other advice on the development of the project, and to suggest possible sources of funding. He is also willing to suggest other experts who might have more relevant experience in the area concerned.

So, although we are not usually able to be active collaborators in research or offer a formal peer review process, we can offer a limited amount of guidance in shaping and funding the research. If you would like to take up this offer, please contact [info@changingfaces.org.uk](mailto:info@changingfaces.org.uk)

### **Finding support and funding**

Please have in mind that if your project is directly related to disfigurement, you might secure backing for your proposal by connecting with another research centre such as the Centre of Appearance Research at the University of the West of England – [www.uwe.ac.uk/car](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/car)

### **Advertising 'research projects' on Changing Faces website**

If you do achieve funding, we are usually able to help you find participants through a process of advertising on our website, provided our criteria are met. The Annex explains this process.

### **Gaining Changing Faces advice on research methodology**

*Changing Faces* is sometimes asked to test some aspect of a research project on a sample of our clients (eg: a questionnaire or a prototype intervention). Such requests may be considered positively where the Management Team is convinced that the project is of great significance and where very little *Changing Faces* staff resource would be required.

In such circumstances, *Changing Faces* would expect:

- To be acknowledged in agreed wordings in subsequent papers or funding applications
- Not to be involved in the recruitment of participants or future projects except as defined by the Advertising guidelines in the Annex.

## **ANNEX: Advertising for participants in research projects on *Changing Faces* website**

### ***What do we mean by 'research projects'?***

- Research that is primarily being conducted at Masters, Doctorate or higher level.

### ***Why does *Changing Faces* advertise research projects? Because...***

- All our work is underpinned by academic research, and so we are keen to encourage research in our field
- Academic research can help to inform and develop our services
- Whilst research has been increasing in the area of disfigurement, there is still much to do
- Ultimately, we hope that research will benefit our clients
- Research findings have led to significant improvements in clinical practice and have already enabled *Changing Faces* to make credible contributions to NHS policy reviews on service developments.

### ***The vetting process***

Any request to 'advertise' research on the *Changing Faces* will be thoroughly vetted:

#### **Step 1: Does the research proposal meet the following criteria?:**

- It is being conducted with a reputable academic institution
- The researcher is being supervised by senior academic person/s
- It relates to psycho-social research. We do not advertise medical research.
- Ethical considerations have been passed by appropriate authority covering at least:
  - confidentiality/anonymity
  - permission to withdraw from study at any time
  - care of participants' emotional and physical health during and after research
  - informed consent is required for participation
- Researcher can provide evidence that other organisations and support groups will be approached for recruitment etc so the research does not solely rely on *Changing Faces*
- Changing Faces* will not be required to participate in recruitment, beyond potentially posting on its website an appeal for participants (subject to above conditions)
- Changing Faces* will not be asked to provide resources (staff/offices) for the research
- A credible timeline for research is provided.

#### **Step 2: If the above conditions are met, researchers will be asked to provide evidence of the following for further consideration:**

- The research aims, criteria, methodology and desired outcomes
- How the research is linked with *Changing Faces*' ethos
- How the findings will benefit our clients and work.

#### **Step 3: If *Changing Faces* accepts the project for the website, the following will apply:**

- *Changing Faces* will be kept up-to-date with process via regular emails
- Participants will receive information about the research findings on completion
- Any financial or other incentive offered to potential participants is negotiated independent of *Changing Faces*
- Advert descriptions must be supplied by researcher, but *Changing Faces* reserves the right to edit them. The project aims, process, ethics and outcome must be very clear
- A disclaimer statement will be present with each research project advertised.

For further information, please contact [info@changingfaces.org.uk](mailto:info@changingfaces.org.uk)