

**Rosa Vella is a member of the Public Partnership Group at the University of Huddersfield and works with the Teaching Partnership as an expert with experience of social care services. Rosa shared her reflections on supporting the student admissions process within the Teaching Partnership to ensure that the highest calibre candidates are recruited to social work degree programmes.**

I have been involved in the new student Admissions process here at the University of Huddersfield for the past year and a half and have really enjoyed it. It has been great to feel - and **KNOW** - that as Service Users/Carers we can be involved right at the beginning of the process of finding new entrants to the Social Work profession - and that our views and opinions are really important. I have felt like both a valued and valuable part of the team and it has been great to work with the academic staff and Social Work practitioners on an equal footing.

Having been a Carer for two Service Users in past years, I have definitely greatly appreciated the help and support of Social Workers. It has been lovely to feel that I've been able to contribute to helping develop the Social Workers of the future, and that new entrants see that Service User needs are at the heart of what they do - their needs are top priority.

I would certainly recommend that any Service User/Carers with lived experience in the area of social work should get involved in the admissions process. It's demanding work - particularly if there are lots of candidates on the interview day! But it's extremely rewarding to be involved.