

## Survivor Researcher Network

### About us

A user-controlled network for all mental health service users and survivors with an interest in research.

Hosted by National Survivor User Network (NSUN), a charity led by survivors and service users that connects people with lived experience of mental distress.

### What is Survivor Research

Survivor Research promotes experiential knowledge in research – knowledge drawn from lived experience.

Survivor research is led by service users and survivors.

Survivor Research has an explicit values base and uses a social model of mental health which includes the impact of oppression, discrimination and inequality.

## Experiential, emancipatory, holistic

Survivor Research has developed from the political roots of survivor activism that challenges the psychiatric system and medical models.

It differs from ‘Patient & Public Involvement’ in research (PPI) because the research is carried out from the perspective of people who have experienced mental or emotional distress and survivors have control over the research process.

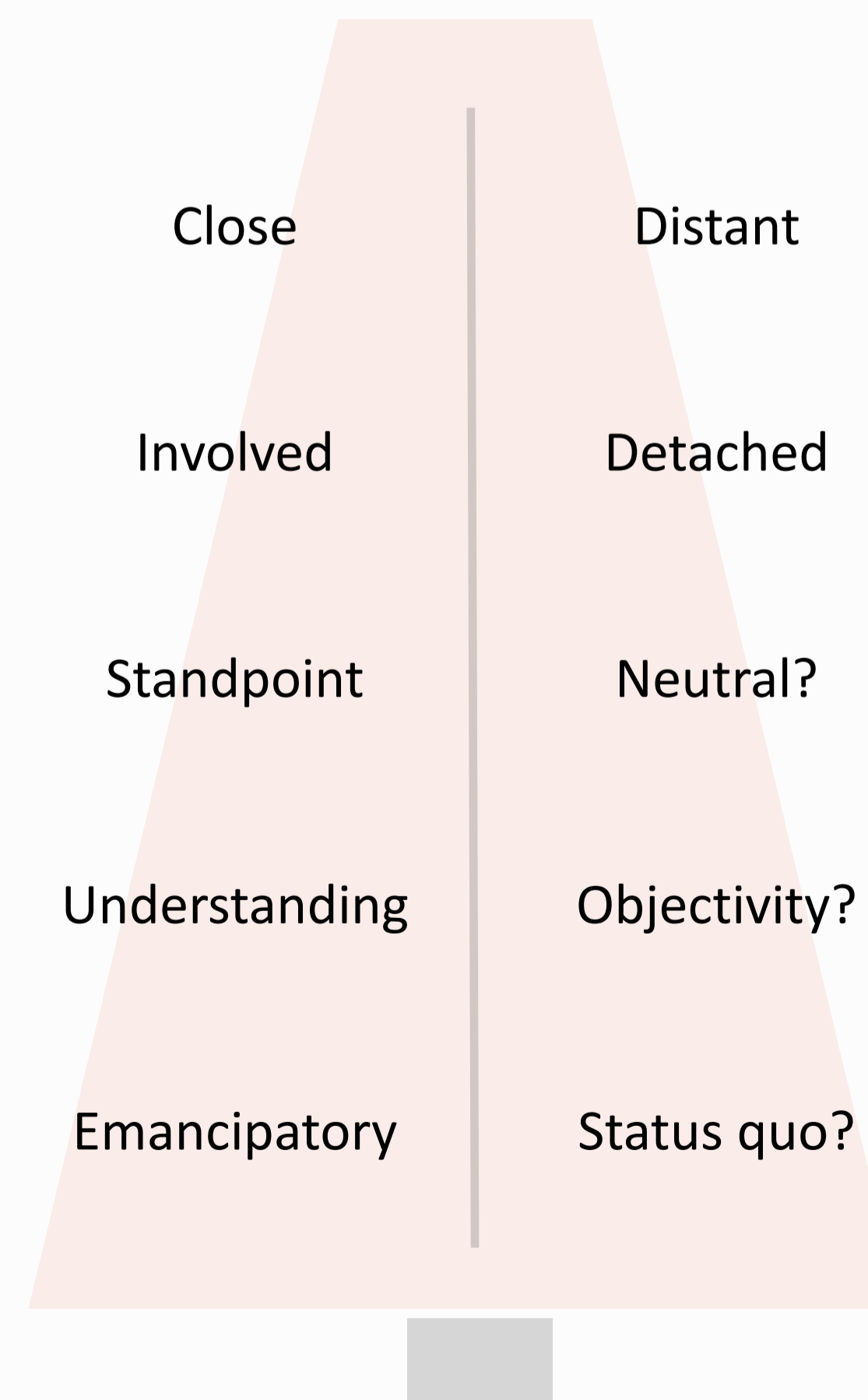
Survivor Research recognises the broad social issues of marginalisation, oppression, inequality, exclusion and impoverishment, and foregrounds the connections with mental ill health engaging with the whole person (their varied interconnecting identities and different aspects of their wellbeing)

## Inclusive, Diverse, Anti-discriminatory

We value research practice and knowledge production that:

- promotes knowledge and takes on board perspectives from less powerful and marginalised groups in society including people with ‘protected characteristics’ under the Equality Act (2010) and those living in poverty and those experiencing multiple disadvantages.
- challenges the marginalisation of some communities and individuals in mental health research (including user-led research) in terms of access to resources, participation and leadership.
- recognises and challenges the power relations that exist within less powerful groups (including the survivor movement itself).
- reflects and promotes the diversity of experiences, identities and backgrounds of service user and survivor researchers, including those who are new to research and/or those who do not have formal ‘research training’ or background.

### Survivor research - Positivist research



## Patient and Public Involvement

Within PPI and ‘co-production’ initiatives, the independence, agency and autonomy of service user and survivor researchers are often eroded or ignored.

We seek a redistribution of power drawing on the NSUN 4Pi National Involvement Standards: principles, purpose, presence, process, impact.



### Further Information

About NSUN:

<https://www.nsun.org.uk>

About SRN:

<https://www.nsun.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/our-sub-network>

Join NSUN and SRN:

<https://www.nsun.org.uk/member-join>

Contact SRN email:

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