**Appendix 4**

**A Pilot Feasibility Study to examine the use of carer views to inform risk assessments in Mental Health**

**Executive Summary**

Background: Involving carers is a key priority in mental health services. Carers feel sharing information regarding ‘risks’ posed by service users is currently problematic and seldom takes place.

Aims: This study evaluated the effects of increasing carer involvement in dialogue around risk assessment.

Method: Staff-carer risk consensus scores were measured pre/post introduction of a structured dialogue. Carer experience with involvement was surveyed pre-test and compared with the post-test intervention group.

Results: Statistically significant differences were found in carer experience across 4 out of 6 areas of risk. No statistically significant differences were found in relation to staff-carer consensus scores.

Conclusions: Findings provide support for increasing carer contribution to discussions regarding risk. Further work investigating the use of structured approaches to embed carer involvement in clinical practice is warranted.