**Anna Lavis – Nomination Statement**

[a.c.lavis@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.c.lavis@bham.ac.uk)

Nominated by: Brian Martindale

Seconded by: Jessica Arenella

I am passionate about the aims and activities of ISPS and being one of the book series editors since 2016 has offered me a brilliant opportunity to contribute to the organisation. I would now like to extend that contribution by becoming a member of the EC.

Working as a lecturer in sociology, I conduct research into people’s lived experiences of mental health and distress, particularly of psychosis, self-harm, and eating disorders. Against this background, I would like to help further ISPS’s growing emphasis on social approaches to psychosis, in terms of both understanding and treatment. It is key that alongside psychological approaches, the very real role that social factors such as inequality play in psychosis onset and experience is acknowledged in mental health services and society more widely. It is also important that ISPS represents and engages with all sectors of society and people with diverse cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and living circumstances.

Crucial to these aims is that the perspectives of individuals and families with lived experience are listened to and valued both within and beyond the organisation.In the ISPS book series, my co-editor, Andrew Shepherd, and I continually reflect on how to ensure that the perspectives of a wide variety of people with lived experiences of psychosis are included in all the books, and that they shape thedirection and priorities of the series as a whole.This is an aim that I’m sure we can always get better at. But I believe that the book series, and ISPS’s publications more widely, are a vital part of the organisation’s activities. They ensure that lived experience perspectives on psychosis, recovery and treatment areheard beyond the ISPS community. They are therefore key to improving societal attitudes to, and understandings of, psychosis globally and hopefully play a role in enhancing the lives of individuals with psychosis, their families and friends.

If I were elected to the EC, I would therefore particularly value the opportunity to work across ISPS’s publications and educational activities, helping to expand, develop and promote these aspects of the organisation’s work. However, I would also be happy to take on any role useful to the ISPS international community, especially focused on working towards ensuring that ISPS’s membership is as inclusiveand representative as possible. I have wide experience of working across academic, clinical and third sector contexts and in collaboration with a range of different people. To the EC, I would therefore bring relevant experience and huge enthusiasm accompanied by an active commitment to ISPS’s aims, ethos and activities. I would value the chance to learn from the existing EC members and work alongside an inspiring group of people.