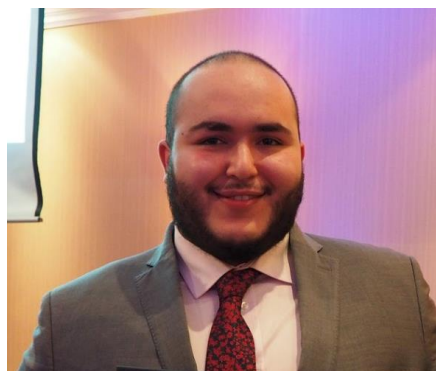


## Raf Hamaizia FMHC

Raf Hamaizia is an experienced patient leader, Expert by Experience and founder of The Joint Thinking Initiative; a user-led organisation focusing on co-production and service user involvement.

In his capacity as an Expert by Experience 'Raf' has extensive experience of working alongside the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), NHS England, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, various universities and most notably, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) via Choice Support, where he has taken part in key guidance committees, working groups and over 100 CQC inspections and counting.



He has been the Expert By Experience Lead (Director of Involvement) for Cygnet Healthcare since August 2016 where he has been working alongside the Director of Nursing to shape and improve the service user involvement structures within the organisation, both on a local and group level. He has rolled out a number of initiatives within Cygnet Healthcare such as 'The People's Council' and his role has been recognised as 'an area of outstanding practice' by the Care Quality Commission.

Raf was chair of the recent topic group on 'Other ethnic minorities' as part of the independent review of the Mental Health Act. He is currently studying an MSc in mental health recovery and social inclusion at the University of Hertfordshire where he is also student rep.

In his spare time he works with disadvantaged youth, third sector organisations and is a prominent mental health awareness campaigner. He is passionate about music and is part owner of an independent record label, talent management and media production company.

You can follow Raf on twitter at : [@Raf\\_Hamaizia](https://twitter.com/Raf_Hamaizia)