NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration South London

KING'S College LONDON

INFORMATION SHEET FOR NHS AND SOCIAL CARE STAKEHOLDERS

Ethical Clearance Reference Number: LRS/DP24/25-45268

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

Preventive Role of social care for Older People (PROP)

Invitation

We would like to invite you to participate in this research project which is being undertaken by a team at the King's College London and is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration South London. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the research project?

Health and well-being monitoring of older adults living alone at home is often undertaken by community care providers, home care agencies and voluntary organisations. Examples may include checking in on people's wellbeing, measuring blood pressure, and recognising changes in presentation. The value of these monitoring activities for the individuals (e.g. preventing deterioration) and for the healthcare system (e.g. potential savings made to the NHS budget) or supporting the social care workforce is rarely sufficiently measured, captured or evidenced. **This project focuses on the contribution of social care services in monitoring and maintaining the health and well-being of older users of adult social care services living alone at home.**

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are being invited to take part in this project because we would like to speak to people who work in the NHS or social care and interact with social care services that provide at-home and out-of-home community support that involves monitoring and supporting older adults who live alone at home in south London with health and well-being needs (e.g., staff in GP practices, care navigators, social prescribing link workers, occupational therapists, commissioners). We are interested in services that include forms of at-home support (e.g. home care) and out-of-home community support (e.g. befriending or bereavement support groups in the community, lunch clubs for people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, Men's Sheds).

What will happen if I take part?

If you choose to participate in this study, you will be asked to take part in a virtual focus group (roundtable) with a maximum of 3 other participants and the research team (conducted over Microsoft Teams). The roundtable will last approximately one hour. **During the roundtables we will explore the value and role of social care service staff/volunteers' monitoring actions to the broader local NHS and social care workforce**. The discussions may be about your experience of referrals and monitoring

information received from these social care services, and about your views on the helpfulness, quality, and value of these referrals and information. We may also ask for your opinion on whether any cost savings have been made or if/how these could be calculated.

With your consent, the focus group (roundtable) will be recorded via the virtual platform and the data will be transcribed and used for analysis. Quotes might be used in outputs of the study, but any identifying details (name, employer, etc.) will be removed first. We will report your role and borough separately.

Do I have to take part?

You should only take part if you want to, and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Once you have read the information sheet, please contact us if you have any questions that will help you make a decision about taking part. If you decide you want to take part, we will arrange a convenient time to undertake a roundtable and ask you to complete a consent form and a form collecting some details about you and your background before taking part in the roundtable.

What are the possible benefits and risks of taking part?

Participants will be offered a £20 voucher to thank them for their time. Findings are expected to help emphasize and understand in more detail the contribution of social care services in monitoring and maintaining the health and well-being of older users of adult social care services who live alone. This will be of use to policy makers.

We do not think there are risks in taking part in this study.

What if I change my mind about taking part?

You are free to withdraw up to two weeks after the roundtable takes place, without giving a reason. Withdrawing from the project will not affect you in any way. If you withdraw, we will keep the information we have already obtained for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the study. This is because, in roundtables, comments are often interlinked, making it difficult to remove one person's input. If you wish to withdraw, please contact Kritika Samsi whose details appear below.

How is the project being funded?

This research is funded by the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration South London.

What will happen to the results of the project?

The results of the project will be summarised in journal article(s), policy deliverables (e.g., publicly available report(s) or slide deck(s) summarising all the information collected, policy briefs); and/or other materials (e.g., training materials, conference presentations, and promotion through media).

Who should I contact for further information?

For more details, questions, or to express interest in taking part, please either scan the QR code here, or click on this link, and fill in the short form to let us know, or contact Kritika Samsi at kritika.1.samsi@kcl.ac.uk or 020 7848 1782 and leave a message.

Please feel free to share this information with your networks.

Data handling and confidentiality

Your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection law (including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018).

All electronic data will be saved in study-specific SharePoint and OneDrive folders which can only be accessed by members of the study team. Both are secure environments with automatic backups and are suitable for storing confidential and sensitive data. All data will be handled confidentially and reported using pseudonyms (codes), but there is a small chance participants will be identifiable due to the small sample size. Due to the nature of focus groups (roundtables), participants are not guaranteed anonymity or confidentiality.

Personal data will only be collected and processed where it is needed for the conduct of the research (for example, contact information for participants). With your consent the interview will be digitally recorded, and the data will be transcribed and used for analysis. The digital file will be shared between the research team and a professional transcriber, who has signed a confidentiality agreement, using a password protected platform.

Data will be pseudonymised as soon as possible after data collection with alpha-numeric ID numbers used on transcripts. Pseudonyms or generic descriptors will be used to edit out identifying information from the transcripts before analysis. Data including quotes will be reported using only the alpha-numeric ID number.

Raw data, completed consent forms and the list of identifiers (key file) will be kept in a separate folder to the de-identified data. We will keep a 'record of participation' spreadsheet that will include your name and contact details (email or phone number) and information to help the project such as the date of the interview. This spreadsheet will be kept in a computer file and access will be restricted to the study team. Audio and video files will be deleted from the audio-recording device or virtual platform after successful uploading to SharePoint and OneDrive and deleted from SharePoint and OneDrive once the transcript has been received from the transcription company and checked for accuracy by the research team.

In accordance with King's College London's policy, we will retain the data for 7 years after the study finishes, which is in March 2026. Data will be archived in a study-specific SharePoint Folder accessible only by the study team.

King's College London has a responsibility to keep information collected about you safe and secure, and to ensure the integrity of research data. Specialist teams within King's continually assess and ensure that data is held in the most appropriate and secure way.

Data Protection Statement

If you would like more information about how your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection laws please visit the link below:

https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

If this project has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the project you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information: Committee Chair/Vice-President (Research & Innovation) Professor Bashir M. Al-Hashimi rec@kcl.ac.uk.

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.