



**Participant Information Sheet
Staff version (Questionnaire)**

Title of research study: The impact of the environment on engagement in therapeutic activities of service users in an acute mental health unit

Principal Investigator: Ellen Serwaa Adomako

You are being asked to participate in a research study. Please read the following details and take time to consider before you decide to take part. Please feel free to discuss the study with friends and colleagues and take the opportunity to ask questions of the researcher before making your decision.

Description of the study

Engaging in therapeutic activities whilst in hospital is an important part of mental health service users' recovery. However, service users admitted to acute wards in the UK have reported having few activities to engage in on the wards, which can lead to feelings of boredom and have a negative impact on their treatment and care. In part, this lack of activities have been attributed to the dynamics within the environment of the acute mental health hospitals. This study, as part of the Principal investigator's PhD study, aims to explore the environment of the acute mental health unit from the perspectives of staff and service users. The environment in the context of this study include the physical, social and cultural environment. The study also aims to identify factors that participants' think either promotes or inhibits service users' engagement in therapeutic activities. A potential output from the study will be recommendations for changes to the environment which might lead to improvements in service users' engagement.

Why have I been invited?

You are been asked to participate in this research as you are currently a clinical staff at the Gordon hospital. We are interested in your experiences of working with service users within this hospital environment and will be grateful if you could complete a questionnaire for us, which asks about various aspects of this.

How is the study organised?

The researcher will be visiting the wards, attend meetings and handover where she will present the study and answer any questions. She will also be happy to discuss the study at any time with you or your colleagues.

The researcher will leave a large box or envelope in the staff office on the ward where you can put your completed questionnaires, in the sealed envelope provided. You can also hand the questionnaire to the researcher if you see her when she visits the ward.

What will happen to you if you decide to take part?



If you are willing to take part in the study, we would be grateful if you could complete the enclosed questionnaire, which includes:

- Your perception of the ward environment, measured by the Ward Atmosphere Scale
- Your satisfaction with the design and features of the ward in which you work
- Questions about you (on your gender, profession, grade and length of time working on the ward).

You also have a choice to request for a softcopy of the questionnaire to be email to you if you like this option and provide your email to the researcher. Your email will also be use solely for the purpose of sending you the questionnaire.

How will confidentiality and anonymity be ensured?

All your questionnaire responses will be confidential, published reports will not allow the responses of any individual worker to be identified in any way, nor will any information about individual responses be fed back to colleagues or managers in your service. However in the unlikely event that you should disclose any information related to professional misconduct we will be ethically obliged to inform senior staff. All data will be kept on password-protected computers in the University of Essex and will be accessible only to the researcher and her supervisors. You will be allocated a study number which means your name will not be linked to your responses if anyone comes across your questionnaire by accident. The list linking your name and your study number will be accessible to the researcher and her supervisor only and will be securely stored in a password protected file separately from your responses. This information will be kept safely for the duration of the research by the researcher and will be handed over to the academic supervisor to be stored securely in the University of Essex on completion of the research.

Your decision about whether to take part

While we would be very grateful for your help with the research, your decision about whether to participate is entirely a personal one and will not affect your employment in any way. If you do not wish to participate in the study then all you have to do is not to return the questionnaire when it is given to you, or inform the researcher of your decision not to participate. Your consent to participate in the study will be implied by completing the questionnaire. If you decide to leave the study at any point, data already gathered from you for the questionnaire will not be used. The only benefit to you of participating, is the indirect one that we hope the completed research may in future influence positively the working environment that you or staff elsewhere experience.

If you would like a copy of the study results please let the researcher know and you will be sent this once it is available.

Possible risks to taking part:

We do not anticipate that there are risks involved in taking part in this study. However, if you are harmed by taking part in this research project, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, then you may have grounds for a legal action but you may have to pay for it. Regardless of this, if you wish to complain about any aspect of the way you



have been approached or treated during the course of this study, the normal National Health Service complaints mechanisms may be available to you.

The results of the study:

We anticipate that the results will be published in academic journals. You are also welcome to attend any events that we host in the future to present the findings. If you would like us to contact you by post to give you details of these events, and also to provide you with a summary of the results, please tell the researcher who will make a note of this. Also, the results from this module will form part of reflections and discussions in module two of the study, which will be during participatory action research group meetings held with staff participants

How the study is funded:

This study is not funded but has received a small budget from Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, Acute Services to cover for staff participation and catering in the Participatory Action Research group meetings.

Ethical approval:

All research in the NHS is scrutinised by an independent group called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by xxxx Research Ethics Committee.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of the study, you should speak to the researcher who will do their best to answer your questions (**Ellen Adomako at ea16632@essex.ac.uk**) or the **Supervisor, Professor Fiona Nolan at f.nolan@essex.ac.uk**.

Formal Complaints

If you wish to make a formal complaint or if you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting the Research Governance and Planning Manager, Research Office, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, by emailing: sarahm@essex.ac.uk