



**Participant Information Sheet  
Staff version (Participatory Action Research)**

**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

**Why have I been invited?**

You have already helped us by participating in the questionnaire survey component of this study, for which we are very grateful. We are approaching you now to ask if you will help us again by participating in an action research group, as described below. Please read the following details and take time to consider before you decide to take part.

**Description of the study**

This is module two of the research investigating impact of the environment on service users' engagement in therapeutic activities in an acute mental health unit. The environment as used in this research constitutes the physical, social and cultural environment as they relate to the hospital setting. This section of the study is a participatory action research. It involves constituting a research group of clinical staff to engage in a cycle of actions and reflections and come up with recommendations. It is expected the group will explore deeper and from multi-professional perspective the aims of the study. Participating in this section of this study, makes you have the responsibility of helping us generate the data for the research. As a participant, you will work collaboratively with the researcher and service user co-facilitator.

**How is the study organised?**

This component of the study consists of a research group comprised of between 6 and 10 staff members in total from across the 3 acute wards in the Gordon Hospital. The group will meet five times over a period of eight months, for four (4) hours each time. The purpose of the group will be to engage in discussions and activities, to reflect about the environment on the wards and across the unit, and come up with recommendations for action relating to identified issues. The group will be co-facilitated by the doctoral student (Ellen Adomako) and a service user co-facilitator. Topics for discussion will focus on social issues which the participating staff members believe impact on the engagement of service users on the ward in therapeutic activities.

The meetings will be audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim by the researcher, following which they will be erased.

**How will confidentiality and anonymity be ensured?**

All personal identified information will be kept confidential and published reports will not allow the responses of any individual staff 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.

### **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 personal, voluntary and will not affect your employment in any way. You will be asked to sign a consent form if you decide to take part of the study. You can change your mind and withdraw at any time without having to give reasons. You should be available to participate in this research over an eight months period. If you decide to leave the study at any point, data already gathered from you will be included in the study as it will have form part of the ongoing participatory action research. No additional data will be collected from you.

Participants will need to book themselves off work to participate in the study at their own time, either as a day-off or an annual leave. Staff will be given a token payment of £100.00 per each of the five sessions to cover their time and any travel expenses they may incur. There is also the indirect benefit that we hope the completed research may in future influence positively the working conditions 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, some may be distressed in sharing stressful experiences of working with service users or colleagues at the unit during group meetings. 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.

### **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 her best to answer your questions (**Ellen Adomako at [ea16632@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ea16632@essex.ac.uk)**) or the **Supervisor, Professor Fiona Nolan at [f.nolan@essex.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto:sarahm@essex.ac.uk).