



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

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 (PI): Ellen Serwaa Adomako

Why have I been invited?

You have been approached to participate in this research as you are currently working in a senior capacity in Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, and may have some overview of the services provided at the Gordon Hospital, where the main study is being carried out.

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 any questions you may have.

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 inactivity and may 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 research, 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.

How is the study organised?

This study is in three parts; a survey for staff and service users, a series of participatory action research groups and this component, which is individual interviews with senior staff.

. These interviews will be conducted either face to face or over the phone with the Principal Investigator (Ellen Adomako). Your views will be sought around issues that have been raised in the participatory action research groups which have been conducted between May and July 2018. These issues include how the wards are organised, communication between staff, access to therapeutic spaces and activities for service users, design and maintenance of the building, and impact on therapeutic engagement.

The interview will be audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim by the PI following which they will be erased.



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

If you are willing to take part in the study the PI will meet with you at your place of work, or wherever is convenient for you. A face to face meeting would be preferable, but the interview can also be carried out by .

A copy of the interview guide and a consent form will be given to you in advance.

We anticipate that the interview will take between 20 and 40 minutes.

How will confidentiality and anonymity be ensured?

All your interview response will be confidential, 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 a 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. 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. The data collected in the interviews might be shared as appropriate and for publication of findings, using some of your fully anonymised quotes.

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. 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. You can change your mind and withdraw at any time without having to give reasons. 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 you taking part in these interviews. However, the interviews may be stressful to others in sharing their experiences of working with service users or colleagues at the unit. 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.



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 participant payments and catering for the PAR 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 Camden and Islington Research Ethics Committee.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of the study, please contact the PI who will do her best to answer your questions (Ellen Adomako at ea16632@essex.ac.uk)
Tel: 07722 930943

You can also contact her Professor Fiona Nolan at f.nolan@essex.ac.uk. Tel : 07557 863875

Formal Complaints

If you wish to make a formal complaint 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

