**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: Exploring the lived experience of secure patients during COVID-19.

**Researcher**: Karen Humphries, Dr Caroline Clarke, Dr Kate Willoughby & Sophie Collingwood

**ERGO number: 56635**

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. It is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve before you decide whether or not you would like to take part.

Please read this information carefully. If you have any questions, or something is not clear, please ask for more information.

**Key Points**

This study looks to understand more about how COVID-19 has affected people in secure hospitals.

It is your choice to take part; it will not affect your care and you can change your mind about this at any point.

The study will involve a 45-minute face-to-face interview. This will be recorded. You will also be asked to complete a questionnaire about you.

You will not be asked to talk about anything that you do not want to.

The interviews will most likely be carried out by Sophie Collingwood (Assistant Psychologist at Southfield) or Karen Humphries (researcher).

The information you share will not affect your care at Southfield, nor will it be shared with your clinical team (unless you say something, which effects yours or others’ safety).

The information collected will be written up in a study. Your name will not be used so it cannot be linked to you. You may request to have a copy of the study when it is finished.

You will receive a £10 store voucher or tuck credit as a thank you for your time.

If you find the interviews upsetting, the researcher and the ward staff will support you with this.

There is more detailed information about the study, here:

**What is the research about?**

This study looks to understand more about the impact of COVID 19 on people living in forensic secure hospitals. We are particularly interested in the changes you have experienced since COVID 19, how it has affected you and your care, along with how you have been managing.

The study is being carried out by Karen Humphries, who is training to become a clinical psychologist. It is being undertaken as part of an educational qualification. Karen is passionate about improving the quality of care experienced by people living in forensic settings.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

You are invited to take part in this study because you spent COVID-19 lockdown in a secure hospital. We hope to find 6-10 people for the study who experienced this, from the 28 people in Southfield Low Secure Unit.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

Once you have read this information you may want to ask some questions or have a think about taking part. It can be a good idea to talk to someone about this decision. You can speak to someone from the research team or your own care team.

If you decide to take part, you will be asked to fill in some information about yourself (age, gender etc.) and give your written consent to take part.

The interview will be on a day that is convenient for you. You will be asked questions about your experiences of being in a forensic hospital during COVID 19. The interviewer will be Assistant Psychologist Sophie Collingwood unless lockdown restrictions ease; in which case it will be Karen Humphries. The interview will be audio recorded using a Dictaphone. You will be told when the recording starts and when it stops. It may take approximately 45 minutes. You may ask for breaks.

The information you share at interview will not affect the care you receive and will not be shared with your clinical team, unless you say something, which effects yours and others’ safety.

Following the interview: a debrief about the study will be read out (you may have a paper copy of this); you will have an opportunity to talk about how you have found the interview and how you are feeling.

Should you feel in any way upset by the interview please tell the interviewer. They will offer you further support with this.

The recording of the interview will be kept safe and then typed up. Once it has been typed the audio will be destroyed. The typed version will have no information that personally identifies you.

You will receive a store voucher or tuck credit worth £10 as a thank you for your time.

The interview data will be analysed and then presented in a research article for the university. It may also be published in an academic journal for others to learn from.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

You may find it helpful to reflect and think about your experience of COVID-19. You will also receive a £10 store voucher/tuck credit as a thank you for your time. The information you provide us may also help professionals working in forensic settings to understand how they can improve the support they offer during difficult times.

**Are there any risks involved?**

Talking about personal experiences always has potential to cause some emotional discomfort or distress. You will not be asked to talk about anything you do not want to, please only share what you feel comfortable with in the interview. There will be an opportunity to talk about how you have found the experience afterwards. This will not be recorded.

The interviewers will follow both national and local COVID restrictions in order to minimise risk of infection.

**What data will be collected?**

The study needs some demographic information about you (age, gender etc.) and an audio recording of your interview.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely your decision whether or not you take part. It will not affect the care you receive at Southfield in any way. You will be asked to complete a consent form before the interview can go ahead.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw from the study without giving a reason. This will not affect the care you receive at Southfield. If you withdraw from the study after the interview has been completed we will keep the information we have already obtained for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the study only.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential.

Direct quotes (what you have said) may be used in the results of the research. This means it will be available in reports or publications about the study however, this will not include information that can directly identify you. You may request to have a copy of the study when it is finished.

**Where can I get more information?**

The psychology team within Southfield can give you more information and answer any questions you may have about the study. Please inform a member of your ward team that you would like to speak to Sophie Collingwood, Assistant Psychologist or Caroline Clarke, Clinical Psychologist at Southfield.

Alternatively you may wish to speak directly to the researcher Karen Humphries who can be contacted at [k.humphries@soton.ac.uk](mailto:k.humphries@soton.ac.uk) or Dr Kate Willoughby at [k.willoughby@soton.ac.uk](mailto:k.willoughby@soton.ac.uk).

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researcher who will do their best to answer your questions: Karen Humphries ([K.Humphries@soton.ac.uk](mailto:K.Humphries@soton.ac.uk)).

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

The NHS will keep the following identifiable information about you from this study: it will be documented in your clinical notes that you have given consent to take part in the study and met with the assistant psychologist to carry out the interview. The content of your interview will remain confidential unless you were to report risk to self or others. In this case, the assistant psychologist would have a duty of care to share this with your clinical team.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

**Thank you.**