You are invited to take part in:

**The ‘Hospital at Home’ social network study**

Study title: Exploring the effects of social network dynamics on patients receiving ‘Hospital at Home’ care in a rural environment.

1. **Summary of the study:**

This is a student PhD project conducted by Staff Nurse Jack Gillham under the supervision of Principle research fellow Dr Ivaylo Vassilev and senior research fellow Dr Rebecca Band. This project is about the Hospital at Home service you work in. It focuses on how the service works, who makes it work for you and what can be done to improve it in the future.

1. **What will happen if you choose to take part?**

* You will take part in an interview to discuss how you feel about the service and how you think it works for patients.
* If you still work for the service, you will be asked to do another, similar interview after the research with patients is completed. This will look at more specific cases to get your opinion and views on this.

1. **What is the study about?**

We want to get more information about how the Hospital at Home service works well or not so well for people. By doing this, in the future we hope to be able to identify people who are unlikely to have a positive experience with the service and therefore put things in place that can improve it for them.

We want to know who helps make the service work. This could be yourself, patient’s family and friends and/or the hospital staff.

Understanding more about these things can help to improve the service in the future.

1. **Why have I been asked to take part?**

We are asking every nurse and healthcare assistant employed by the ‘Hospital at Home’ service at the Dorset County Hospital to take part.

1. **What would happen next if I agree to take part?**

* You will be given time to consider before being asked to give written consent by the researcher, who is also a staff nurse from the ‘Hospital at Home’ team.
* Once this is done you will arrange a suitable time and place to complete the first interview.

1. **Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part.

1. **Can I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and discontinue or withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your ongoing and future employment being affected.

If you **discontinue** you will not take any further part in the study but agree that all your information can be included in the study. If you **withdraw** from the study, only the information about you that has been made anonymous will be used and only for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the study only.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

1. **How will my information be stored and who can see it?**

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.

Interviews will be audio recorded and then transcribed. Interview transcripts will be stored in a locked filing cabinet and digital information will be stored on encrypted devices in locked offices. Your data will be anonymised and assigned a pseudonym. Audio recordings will be deleted once anonymised and transcribed.

All anonymised data is required to be kept for 10 years once the research has been completed but will remain anonymised throughout.

1. **What else?**

* The results of the study will be written up and published. The results will also be discussed at conferences. These will never include the names of people who have taken part, only code names or numbers. You can have a results summary if you wish.
* The study has been approved by the University of Southampton ethics committee and an NHS Research Ethics Committee
* This project is GDPR compliant. The University of Southampton is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This 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.
* Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.
* The University of Southampton will use your name, and contact details to contact you about the research study, and make sure that relevant information about the study is recorded for your care, and to oversee the quality of the study. Individuals from the University of Southampton and regulatory organisations may look at your research records to check the accuracy of the research study.
* The only people in the University of Southampton who will have access to information that identifies you will be people who need to contact you to or audit the data collection process. The people who analyse the information will not be able to identify you and will not be able to find out your name or contact details.
* If for any other reason you cannot continue your data will be treated as if you have chosen to withdraw from the study.

1. **Concerns and complaints**

If you have a concern or complaint about the study, please contact the Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk). The University of Southampton has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.