



Prioritising Research through Engagement with older Adult Care Homes

Information for Care Home Managers

We would like to invite the care home that you manage to take part in a consultation activity. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important you understand why we are running this activity and what your involvement will include. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Do not hesitate to ask us anything that is not clear or for any further information you would like to help make your decision.

What is the purpose of this exercise?

We want to ask all people with an interest in care homes – including residents, their families, care home staff, managers, local authorities, and health and social care workers – what is most important to them and if they have any ideas for care home research. Most information will be collected through an online survey – which residents can complete. However, we will also talk to residents directly in their own homes. To do this we would ask staff working in your home (for example, the Activity Co-ordinator or Wellbeing Lead) if they could facilitate this discussion on our behalf. At an activity session they will talk about the kind of research taking place in care homes and ask residents to think about what is important to them, and other ideas they may have for research projects. We have developed an activity pack (in collaboration with two care homes) to help facilitate this conversation. Ideas can be written on suggestion

cards, which can then be returned to the study team. A business reply envelope is included in the activity pack.

Does my care home have to take part?

It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part in this exercise. Agreeing to take part does not mean you have to complete it – your care home is free to leave at any stage without giving a reason.

How long will it take?

This can be led by your staff member, there is no target duration time for activities. We have found that generally activities take between 30-60 minutes. There are options for longer or shorter activities in the pack.

What will happen to residents if they take part?

It will be an open conversation between residents and your staff member. Staff will ask residents to think about what is important and what they think researchers should spend time developing, such as new ways of working, or focusing on a particular medical condition that affects care home residents.

What are the possible benefits or disadvantages of taking part?

In the short term, there are no immediate benefits or risks to residents. In the longer term, new research may be funded to answer their questions, because they are highlighted as important to residents.

We would be happy to send your care home a certificate to show that you have taken part. On our website (www.carehomepriorities.com) we have also included a free printable certificate template that can be downloaded and given to individual residents who have taken part if they would like this. As a further incentive to return completed suggestion cards, there is a 1-in-4 chance of winning a £50 “Love to Shop” voucher for all suggestions sent back in the business reply envelope (maximum one voucher per care home).

How will my taking part in this exercise be kept confidential?

We will not collect any personal information from residents taking part in this exercise. All suggestions will remain anonymous.

To enter the voucher draw, we would require a name and address for the care home. This information will be destroyed after the prize draw is completed.

What will happen to the data collected within this study?

Suggestion card responses will be collected in your care home and sent in hard copy to the PREACH study team at University of Hertfordshire.

The data collected will be stored electronically, in a password-protected environment, for 18 months, after which time it will be destroyed under secure conditions.

Who has reviewed this study?

The project is being led by the University of Hertfordshire, with support from the National Institute for Health and Care Research. It has been approved by The University of Hertfordshire Health, Science, Engineering and Technology Ethics Committee with Delegated Authority. The Ethics Protocol number for this study is **SK/SF/UH/05642**.