

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Version 1, April 26th 2023

Title of study: Supporting the NHS Commitment to Planetary Health in a period of Austerity? Re-using, Recycling and Assistive Devices currently lost in the system.

Name of Researcher: Dr Sibylle Thies and Ms Lesley Davidson

Invitation: We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to take part, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information and ask questions if anything is unclear or if you'd like more information. Allow yourself at least 24 hours to consider participating.

What is the purpose of the study?

We are excited to involve you to help us improve current understanding of the life cycle of mobility aids, with a view to longer-term support the NHS Commitment to Planetary Health and sustainability. For this we seek your views regarding the different stages of the life cycle of mobility aids such as walking frames and walking sticks, from prescription to repair or loss.

Why have I been invited to take part?

We have invited you because you have relevant experience with mobility aids, such as prescription, recycling, refurbishment, or loss. This experience may be through working in the industry, as a healthcare professional, for a charity, or in a similar capacity.

You cannot take part if:

- 1) You have no relevant experience.
- 2) You are not able to or willing to consent to taking part
- 3) You are not able to speak and understand the English language
- 4) The study finished whilst you are deciding to take part.

Do I have to take part?

No, participation is voluntary. You can stop participating at any time without giving a reason, but we will keep the information we have collected about you.

What will happen to me if I take part?

We will be asking you to participate in an interview and/or a focus group, pending your availability. We plan to do interviews and focus group in a video call, but do offer

a face-to-face meeting if preferred. You can have a family member or friend present if you like.

Interview and focus group will explore your views on aspects of mobility aids' journey such as:

- Prescription and procurement of mobility aids
- Transport and storage of mobility aids
- Refurbishment of mobility aids and how may such be improved
- Barriers and facilitators to recycling and refurbishment
- Recycling of mobility aids and how such may be improved
- Mobility aids getting lost when no longer in use and how may this be prevented
- Sustainability/waste around mobility aids and how this could be improved
- Costs incurred throughout the mobility aid journey

If you agree to take part and are suitable for the study, we will arrange a date for the interview/focus group. At that time we will explain the study once more and answer any questions you may have. We will then ask you to sign a Consent Form and email it to us before the interview/focus group begins. If we see you face-to-face you may sign on the day but before we begin.

How much of my time will it take?

The interview will take maximally 1 hour, the focus group will take maximally 2 hours.

Expenses and payments?

We offer £20 for each participation, payable via bank transfer. Please note that payment may take about 6 weeks through the university's payroll system.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

This study is only exploring your views on the life journey of mobility aids with regard to prescription, recycling, refurbishment or loss of mobility aids. We estimate that the risk of injury is at a similar level to that in every-day life. However, if at any time you feel uncomfortable, we will stop the interview immediately and/or you can leave the focus group at any time.

What has been done to minimize risk of contracting Coronavirus (Covid-19)?

The project follows government and university guidelines and has been risk assessed to mitigate the risk of contracting Covid-19. Researchers have completed relevant training and are committed to their approved protocol. The study's protocol has been developed to minimize physical contact with participants and to minimize hand-over of items to participants.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There is no direct benefit, but your participation will support a Research England Grant Application and contribute to long-term research that could support the NHS Commitment to Planetary Health.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a problem or complaint, you can contact the lead investigator, **Dr. Sibylle Thies** (email: s.thies@salford.ac.uk; phone: 0161-2952679) or **Dr Katy Szczepura (Chair of the Health Research Ethics Panel)** (phone: 0161-2952192; email: k.szczepura@salford.ac.uk). You can also contact ethics@salford.ac.uk or complaints@salford.ac.uk.

What if something goes wrong?

This is very unlikely. However, the university has Public and Products Liability Cover in place.

Is the study confidential?

Yes. The research team complies with General Data Protection Requirements (GDPR), and we will keep all information about you safe and secure. Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

Findings will not be shared with your carer, GP, or family members, and whether you do or do not take part, will not affect any care that you receive, unless we deem you to be unsafe.

How will my data be used?

We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you. We will store your anonymised data in the University of Salford data repository. When we publish in certain journals, we are required to give access to the anonymized data, however, you will not be able to be identified. You can find out more about how we use your information by emailing us or contacting the university's data protection officer Andrew Hartley at A.Hartley2@salford.ac.uk

What will happen if I don't carry on with the study?

There is no danger to your leaving the study early. If you want to withdraw please notify Dr. Sibylle Thies, phone: 0161-2952679, email: s.thies@salford.ac.uk. Data collected up to that point may be used in the research.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

This study will primarily inform a funding application. We will also report the findings in peer-reviewed publications and academic conferences, maintaining participant confidentiality.

Who is organising or sponsoring the research?

The research is being organised by the University of Salford.

Further information and contact details:

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this research information sheet.

Please discuss this information with your family and friends if you wish.

To volunteer for this study, or for further information, please contact:

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