



Participant Information Sheet

Supporting social connectedness for older people during the pandemic – What role can technology play?

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether you would like to take part, please let me explain why the study is being done and what it would involve from you. Please take some time to read and understand the information provided below. There will also be the opportunity to ask questions to find out more.

What is the research about?

This project aims to explore the experiences of older people living in Scotland, India and Mexico during the COVID-19 pandemic and to examine the potential for everyday technology to help people stay more socially connected with others.

Why have I been invited to participate?

We have asked you to take part as you are an older person living in Scotland.

What does participation involve?

Your participation would involve taking part in a group interview discussion with three or four other older people from Scotland using an online video conferencing system such as Zoom.

We will provide guidance and support with using the online forum if this is new to you.

We will audio-record the group discussions and make notes during the group interview.

There is also an opportunity to take part in an online workshop with participants from Mexico and India later in the project and, if you are interested, we will provide information following the group interview discussion.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot promise that taking part in this study will benefit you personally, but we hope that this research will help develop a broader understanding of the impact of the pandemic for older people and the use of technology to stay connected.

What will happen to information collected?

We would like to audio-record the group discussions. This will help us to capture accurately what you are saying. We will ask for your consent to do this each time we call. You can always ask to hear any of the audio that is recorded during the research. Once a group discussion has been recorded, the audio file will be transcribed to make sure that the conversation is captured exactly as it happened.

Any names and identifying information that were mentioned as part of the group discussion will be replaced with numbers so that nobody can be identified. Any audio recordings will be deleted upon completion of the study while the anonymised transcripts will be kept for a minimum of ten years in line with the University of Stirling data protection policies.

We will use the information collected in reports on our findings and in other research outputs, such as journal articles and conference presentations. We may wish to use quotes to illustrate the points we make. Where we do so, we will ensure that these are anonymised and that you cannot be identified.

Data about you

As part of the research, we will be recording personal data relating to you such as your name, age, gender, ethnicity, and about your health. This will be processed in accordance with current legal guidance, known as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We need to tell you that the legal basis for processing your personal data will be the official authority of the University and for research purposes in the public interest.

You have the right to request to see a copy of the information we hold about you and to request corrections or deletions of the information that is no longer required. You have the right to object to us processing relevant personal data however, please note that once the data are being analysed it may not be possible to remove your data from the study.

Confidentiality

All the information we collect will be treated as confidential. However, if we were to hear or see something that made us worry about your wellbeing or that of others, we would not keep this confidential. If we are worried about you or someone else then we need to let a responsible person know. We won't do that without talking to you first.

What if I agree to take part but later change my mind?

If you agree to take part in this research, you are free to change your mind at any time, including during a group discussion. You do not have to answer any question if you do not wish to do so, and you can withdraw at any point. You do not have to explain or say why.

If you decide that you no longer wish to take part during or after a group discussion, we will use the information you provided up to that point since it would be difficult to remove the contributions of one or two people and still be able to make sense of the remaining discussion within the group.

We would still take action if you revealed anything that led us to be worried about your wellbeing or that of someone else before your withdrawal from the study.

What if I want to discuss the research further before making a decision?

If you have any further questions about the study or about what participation might involve for you then please contact Louise McCabe:

Telephone: 07772 941552 Email: louise.mccabe@stir.ac.uk

What do I do if I have concerns about the research?

If you have any concerns about the way in which the research is being conducted or the ways in which the researchers have interacted with you then please contact:

Professor Alison Bowes, Dean of Faculty, Faculty of Social Sciences

Telephone: 01786 447731 Email: a.m.bowes@stir.ac.uk

What do I do next?

If you are interested in taking part:

Contact: Alhena Curreri Telephone: 07491-828735 Email: n.a.curreri1@stir.ac.uk

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