# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES | Easy-read information sheet

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| Please **tell us if you need this information in a different language to English**,  and **we will try to provide it**. |

# Introduction

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| Connected Communities logo | This document explains what the Connected Communities project is, and how **you can take part if you want to**. |
| Photo of Jo Weldon | My name is **Jo Weldon** |
| University of Central Lancashire logo | I'm a researcher that works at the **University of Central Lancashire** |
| National Institute for Health and Care Research logo | I’m working on a project for the **National Institute for Health and Care Research**. |
| Photo of Kathryn Berzins | I'm working with some **other researchers** who you might meet:  **Kathryn Berzins** |
| Photo of Danielle Christian | And **Danielle Christian** |

# The project and you

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| Signpost outline | This is a research project about **local support services** that use people known as **signposters.**  **Signposters** link people up with different kinds of **help and activities in the community** where they live.  We're calling this type of work "**person**-centred **community**-based **support** services". |
|  | What happens is   * Someone is (self-)**referred to a service.** * **A signposter talks with them** to find out what help they want or what activities they would like to do. * Then **the signposter helps them to access these things**. |
| People outline | We want **to find out about the way these services are set up by talking to** two groups of people:   * **people who use the service to find local support** in their community, and * **people who work for the service**. |
| **Chat icon** | We would like to **talk to you about what it was like for you** to use this kind of support service, and **if the COVID-19 pandemic affected your involvement**. |
|  | One of our researchers will **talk to you** for up to **an hour** about **what you think works well**, and **not so well** about the way the support service you have used is run. |
|  | Also, we will **briefly ask about information you received to help you decide** whether to take part in this discussion. |
|  | At the end of the project, **we'll produce advice** about **how these services work best.**  **This will help other people set up similar services in other places.** |

# What will happen?

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|  | We can talk to you about the service whenever **it is convenient for you**.  The researcher will offer you **a choice of dates and times**. |
| Telephone outline | You can also **choose where the discussion takes place**.  We could **talk over the phone**, |
| Internet outline | or through a **video-conferencing weblink**  (this will be **through Microsoft Teams** – and you won’t need to install any new software), |
| Table and chairs outline | or if you would like to **speak face-to-face**, we can meet you **in a private space at your local Social Prescribing service**. |
| Microphone outlineApproval comment outline | We will **record your agreement to take part** (known as 'consent') before we interview you.  To do this **you will be read some statements aloud**, and we'll ask you to **answer yes or no to each of them**.  This **can be done on a written document** too, **where you would write your initials** instead of saying ‘yes’. |

# What’s good about it?

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|  | The good things about taking part are:  You'll have a chance to **tell us** about **how you felt** about using your local support service, and **if the COVID-19 pandemic affected your involvement** with that service. |
|  | You'll also be able to **help us to understand how these services work best.**  This information will be used to **help other people set up similar services in different communities.** |
| Gift envelope with money | If you are a **service user**, we will **offer you a £25 gift voucher** for giving us an hour of your time. |
| Warning outline Coins outline | It's **your choice whether you accept** the gift voucher   * if you already receive any state benefits you might want to **check with a benefits advisor** that receiving this won't affect your **future benefit** payments. |

# What might be bad about it?

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|  | The bad things about taking part might be:  The discussion will mean **speaking for up to an hour** with one of our research team.  Some questions might be **difficult to answer**, but we can **help you by asking questions in different ways**. |
| Comment Slash Silence with solid fill | It's OK if there are any **questions that you don't want to answer**, or if you want to tell us to **stop** the discussion.  You **don't have to give a reason** for not answering or stopping. |
| Ventilation outline Surgical mask with solid fill | If you choose to speak to us face-to-face, we will arrange to meet you in an **airy space** to reduce the risk of **COVID-19**.  We will also encourage using a **mask** (face covering) and **social distancing**. |

# Do I have to take part?

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|  | You can **say no if you don't want to** talk to us.  It won't affect how you're treated – now, or in the future. |
|  | It's also OK to **change your mind** - for example, you might say ‘yes’ to a discussion with us, but decide later that you don't want to do it. |

# What happens to what I tell you?

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|  | In this research study **we will use information from you**.  We will only use information that we need for the research study. **You won't need to share any personal information** with us when we talk. |
| Radio microphone with solid fillChat bubble with solid fill | We will **record the discussion**.  This helps us to make sure we don't miss any of the important things you tell us. |
|  | We will let very few people know your name or contact details, and only if they really need it for this study.  **Everyone involved in this study will keep your data safe** and secure. Also **we will follow all privacy rules**. |
|  | **We might need to tell someone if** you share information with us which gives the impression that **you or other people could be in some kind of danger**.  If this happens, **we will try to talk to you about this before telling anyone else**. |
|  | **No one outside the research team will hear your recording**. After we've written down what you told us, **we will destroy the recording**.  **We remove your name from the recording and make sure no-one can tell who you are** from the reports we write.  These **written records of discussions are called transcripts**, and you can **ask for a copy of your transcript if you want it**. |
| Lock with solid fillBlinded icon with solid fill | At the end of the study, we will save some of the information in case we need to check it. |
|  | The **information we collect from talking to people will be used** to write a **report**, a **guide to help other services**, shared at **conferences** and on a **website**.  You can ask to **receive a copy of the project results** when they are finished. |
|  | You can **find out more about how your data is used** at [**https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/**](https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/) |

# Want to take part in our research?

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|  | It's **your choice to decide** if you want to take part.  You can **take some time to think** about this **or speak to other people** about it to help you decide. |
| Email with solid fillPhone Vibration with solid fill | If you have any questions about the research you can also talk about it with us before making your decision.  To do this you can **email me**, at **jcweldon@uclan.ac.uk** or **call my phone** number: **01772 89 49 59** |
| **Shield Tick with solid fill** | This project has been **reviewed and approved** by an **independent Research Ethics Committee** (IRAS ID: 314796). |
| **Coins outline** | The project is **funded by** the **National Institute of Health and Care Research** (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration National Priorities Programme for Adult Social Care and Social Work award (project ID: ARC271). |