

## **Patient information sheet**

### **Patient contributions to the evidence base on inpatient care**

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide 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 carefully and talk to others about the study if you wish.

Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take your time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

**What is the research about?** The purpose of the study is to validate a questionnaire that assesses service users' perceptions of perinatal mental health services. The questionnaire was developed together with women using mental health services in the perinatal period, whether they were treated in home treatment teams (community care), dedicated mother and baby inpatient units or standard acute inpatient wards. We hope to go on to use the measure in a nationwide study assessing the various types of services provided and we feel that the perceptions of those who use these services are a vital part of this evaluation.

**Do I have to take part?** It is up to you to decide. We ask you to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part. You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. This would not affect the standard of care you may be receiving now or in the future.

**Why are we doing the research?** We are carrying out this study because we want to ensure that the questionnaire is scientifically robust enough to utilise in service evaluation.

**What will I have to do?** If you decide to take part we will ask you to provide us with some information on your views of the services you used. You will complete a questionnaire which will take about ten minutes to complete. In addition to the questionnaire we will also collect some demographic details (e.g., age, ethnicity, age).

**What are the possible disadvantages to taking part?** There are no immediate disadvantages to taking part.

**What are the possible benefits?** Although you will not benefit directly from taking part in the research the results will help to guide practice in perinatal mental health services in the future.

**What if there is a problem?** If you have any concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions (contact number 020 7848 5001/emese.1.csipke@kcl.ac.uk). If you remain unhappy particularly about the way you have been dealt with during the study then contact Professor Til Wykes (contact number: 020 7848 0596).

**Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?** Yes. All the information which is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential and any information that is stored will have your name removed so that you cannot be recognised. The information will only be available to authorised personnel.

**What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?** If you decide to withdraw from the study that is up to you. It will not affect the care you receive and you do not need to give a reason.

**What will happen to the results of the study?** We intend to publish the results in journals where it will have the most influence. So we will publish in medical journals as well as making sure that service users will have access to the information whether or not they took part in the research. You will not be identified in any of these reports.

**Who is paying for this research?** The research is paid for from the NHS as part of a programme grant for a set of studies from the National Institute for Health Research.

**Who has reviewed this study?** All research in the NHS is looked at by an independent group of people called a Research Ethics Committee to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the Bromley Research Ethics Committee.