Participant Information Sheet:

Adventures in Research: Educational podcasts to teach and inspire health and social care students in research methods and application to practice.

*Introduction*

All health and care students and professionals must base their practice on evidence. Evidence in the form of research should be generated to answer questions that improve our health and care practices, and the outcomes for patients, clients and staff. For many years there have been reports in peer-reviewed literature that students and staff are not sure how to access or make use of research. There are reports that the teaching of research needs to be improved. And there is also evidence that very few health and care staff feel confident to take part in research, to develop their own studies, and to make use of the research that is already out there.

This study aims to evaluate the development of a new way of inspiring and educating health and care staff about research and its application to work. We are creating a series of 30-minute podcasts about research. Each podcast will have a variety of interviews with researchers, healthcare professionals and students, service users and research participants. We will use the podcast to talk about the research itself, how it was conducted (the methods used), what it means and how it is applied in practice.

We want you to help us to evaluate the podcasts.

*What would I have to do?*

We want a large group of health care students to complete a questionnaire before and after listening to the podcasts. This will help us develop an understanding about attitudes and knowledge towards research, and whether listening to the podcasts influences these.

We also want a smaller group of people to take part in a focus group to give more detailed feedback about the podcasts.

The questionnaire will take about ten minutes to complete online. Each podcast will be 30 minutes in length, and you will have four weeks to listen to at least 4 out of 6 that will be available. This part of the study will therefore take between 2 hours and 20 minutes and 3 hours and 20 minutes spread over four weeks at convenient times for you.

The focus group will be an hour in length and will be hosted at the University at a convenient time for you.

*What are the possible benefits of taking part?*

You will be able to evaluate your knowledge and attitude towards research and you will have the opportunity to learn about research methods and interesting projects that are being conducted.

*What happens if I decide to take part and then change my mind?*

If you complete a questionnaire and then withdraw from the study, you can either leave the data in the pot for analysis or ask us to remove it. You will have until May 1, 2024 to request that we remove your questionnaire data.

If you take part in a focus group and decide part way through the recording that you no longer wish to take part, you can either remain silent or leave the room. Because a focus group is designed to be analysed as a conversation between a group of people, we are unable to remove any audio data you would have already contributed.

*Will my information be kept confidential?*

This study will comply with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and UK Data Protection Act (2018), which govern the processing of personal data. Personal data is information about you that can be used to identify you.

We will collect from you only information that is relevant to answering our research question. No identifiable information about you will be shared outside of the research group at any time.

You will be asked to include your student ID number on the questionnaire so that we can match the pre- and post-podcast questionnaires together. We will not make any attempt to use this ID number to identify you.

The audio data from the focus groups will be collected into an encrypted device and downloaded onto a secure server immediately following the focus group. The audio data will be transcribed by a trusted professional service that has been used in many University research studies. The transcription will identify each participant using an ID number. Once the transcripts have been verified by the researchers as accurate the audio files will be deleted.

*How is this study being funded?*

There are some costs associated with producing the podcasts and in supporting the research team. We have secured some funding from Universitas 21 Health Science Group to help with these costs. We will be seeking further funding from other sources to help continue the project.

*What will happen with the results of this study?*

We are developing a research website for this study, which will contain news and updates about the progress of the study, and results as they become available. You will be given the URL of this site so that you can visit it at any time.

We will generate a research report from the study and publish it in a peer-reviewed professional journal such as Nurse Education Today to allow others to understand whether this strategy is effective or not. We will also present the results of this study at relevant conferences for the same aim.

*Where can I find out more?*

Please talk to either Amelia or Bronwyn to find out more about the project.

Amelia Swift, University of Birmingham: [a.swift@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.swift@bham.ac.uk)

Bronwyn Tarrant, University of Melbourne: [Bronwyn.tarrant@unimleb.edu.au](mailto:Bronwyn.tarrant@unimleb.edu.au)