Participant Information Sheet – RE-MIND Study

Study title: REcruitment in Mental health trials: broadening the 'net', opportunities for INclusivity through online methoDs

We would like to invite you to take part in a focus group to talk about the different methods researchers can use to recruit people to take part in mental health research trials. We are particularly interested in what we have called 'online' methods (for example, using websites or social media such as Instagram and Facebook).

What is the purpose of the RE-MIND study?

Trials often struggle to recruit enough participants, and this issue can be more challenging when recruiting vulnerable populations, such as people with mental health issues and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Some trials are using different ways to try to reach people, for example by using online methods. However, we don't know if using online methods is a better way to approach hard-to-reach or vulnerable individuals. For example, there is the question as to whether online methods improve or hinder our ability to recruit people from different age groups, ethnic backgrounds, or rural/remote areas?

It is important that the people taking part in trials is diverse and reflect our whole population. The aim of the RE-MIND study is to provide guidance for researchers on the use of online methods in the recruitment of participants into mental health clinical trials.

What does the study involve?

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to attend a focus group made up of 6 participants. However, there is also the option to take part in an individual interview. A focus group is an organised discussion with a group of people to gain their views and experience in a specific topic. We would like to get the thoughts and opinions of everyone who are involved in research trials, and this includes patients and the public. The researcher(s) will contact you to arrange a suitable time for the focus group (or interview if required). The focus group will take between 1-2 hours.

Do I have to take part?
Taking part is entirely up to you, and if you do take part you can **withdraw from the study at any time.** If you decide to participate, you will be asked to give consent by filling out a consent form. You are able to ask the researchers to clarify anything you are unsure of before signing the consent form.

Are there benefits to me in taking part in this study?
Whilst there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project sharing your experiences and ideas will help us to develop guidance for researchers to deliver better research. You will also be reimbursed for your time and expenses for attending the focus group.

Will what I say be confidential?
All the information that we collect about you during the research will be kept strictly confidential and only members of the research team will have access to it. Electronic data will be password-protected and saved on the University of Nottingham's server. You will not be able to be identified in any reports or publications unless you have given your explicit consent for this. We will ask that everyone who takes part in the focus group to not repeat what is talked about to others outside the group.

What will happen to the data collected?
The University of Nottingham will keep non-identifiable information about you for seven years after the study has finished. The University of Nottingham will act as Data Controller for this study. This means that the University is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

Once the focus group has been analysed, the results will be used to assist in the development of a guidance document for use of online methods in the recruitment of participants into mental health trials. Findings will be published in scientific journals and may be presented in conferences, seminars and workshops. Quotes from focus groups/interviews may be used, but will not include any personal details.

If you would like to find out about the results of the project the research team will ask for consent to retain your preferred contact details, which will be deleted at the end of the project.

Who is organising and funding the study?
The study is being led by researchers from the Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit, University of Nottingham and funded by the NIHR CTU Support Funding.

Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Nottingham Research Ethics Committee (ref: FMHS 13-0422).

What do I do if I have a concern about the conduct of this study?

If you have any concerns about any aspect of the study, you should contact the Co-Chief Investigators, Kirsty Sprange or Charlotte Hall or Co-investigator and project manager Mais Iflaifel.

Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions, please contact:

- Kirsty Sprange, Co-Chief Investigator. Email: kirsty.sprange@nottingham.ac.uk
- Charlotte Hall, Co-Chief Investigator. Email: charlotte.hall@nottingham.ac.uk
- Mais Iflaifel, Co-investigator. Email: mais.iflaifel@nottingham.ac.uk