

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Study Title: Caring for a person with dementia and use of an online support forum.

What is the purpose of the study? To find out your experiences of caring for someone with dementia and to collect information about your feelings and thoughts around this. The study is also interested in how the online support form helps/does not help you in your role as carer.

Who can take part in the study? People will be recruited for interview from the online support group for those carers looking after someone with dementia.

Do I have to take part? No. There is no obligation to take part in the study.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part? You may experience upset when discussing particular topics. There is no obligation to discuss any topics that you do not wish to. You can stop the interview at any time. Participation is entirely voluntary. If you change your mind about taking part in the study, you can withdraw at any point during the session without giving a reason and without penalty.

What are the possible benefits of taking part? Your responses may be used to understand more fully experiences of caring for an adult with dementia. This may inform professionals' understanding of the issues faced.

What if something goes wrong? If you change your mind about participation, please contact me by email or direct message to cancel your participation. If you feel unhappy about the conduct of the study, please contact me immediately or the Chairperson of the University of Sunderland Research Ethics Group, whose contact details are given below.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential? Your interview responses will not be attached to your name and will be coded for anonymity.

What will happen to the results of the research study? It is anticipated that the results of the study will be shared with educators, academics, students and professionals to enrich their understanding of carers' experiences of caring for an older adult with dementia.

If suitable, the results may also be presented at academic conferences and/or written up for publication in peer reviewed academic journals.

Who is organising and funding the research? Dr Karen Atkinson, Senior Lecturer in Social Work from the University of Sunderland is organising the research. This study is not funded.

Who has reviewed the study? The University of Sunderland Research Ethics Group has reviewed and approved the study.

Contact for further information

Dr Karen Atkinson, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, University of Sunderland

Email: karen.atkinson@sunderland.ac.uk

Or:

Dr John Fulton (Chair of the University of Sunderland Research Ethics Group, University of Sunderland)

Email: john.fulton@sunderland.ac.uk

Phone: 0191 515 2529