**UTSR General Interview Guide**

**Housing narrative (Past)**

I’d like to start by inviting you to tell me about your previous housing experiences, starting from when you were a child. What was is like?

*(If prompt required: atmosphere of the home; any family activities, rituals and rules; abiding memories and impressions, involvement in decision making).*

Moving forward, could you tell me about the house or houses you lived in since you first left home?

*(If prompt required: the sorts of houses you have lived in, the sorts of people you have lived with, abiding memories and impressions)*

**Narrative linked to current house (Present)**

And can you tell me (a bit more about) how you came to live here?

*(If prompt required: how did you find this house/these people; how long have you lived in this house/who lives in this house/ what prompted you to live in a shared context/this particular shared context).*

**Household organisation: spatial and material**

Shared v individual spaces of the home (*elicitation exercise based on map: for each room/space, ascertain whether shared, private or hybrid; who, what, when? clashes over use of space).*

Control of *private* space (eg access; décor; security and respect for privacy: examples/counter-examples; space for personal hobbies/interests; spaces of complete privacy)

Where you involved in house design and décor? [degree of control/involvement; fitness for purpose)].

Where do you feel most comfortable? [Multi-sensory experience of sharing space (sounds/noise; temperature; smell, incl. food smells; states of undress; bathroom negotiations).

Individual vs shared objects (examples of ‘shareable’ and ‘non-shareable’ objects; implicit/explicit rules re borrowing/appropriation; how negotiated; getting rid of things/issues of storage).

Are Car/Bikes communal?

Hobbies – Do you find the time and space to practices your hobbies [e.g. playing musical instruments/ listening to the radio/ reading/ writing etc.]

**Household organisation: social**

Do you spend time together? (Shared or conflicting) expectations of spending time together: (acceptable balance between sharing and privacy; work and leisure schedules: clashing temporal rhythms?)

* Shared activities within the house: how often; where; how organised, specific examples of recent occasions (eg meals, TV, gardening, hanging out together, household tasks, other examples); does the design of the house encourage or inhibit joint socialising?
* Shared activities outside the house: how often; how organised, specific examples of recent occasions (eg going out together (meals, pub, cinema etc), days out/holidays, other examples)
* Special occasions: specific examples of recent occasions eg birthdays, religious festivals, parties, other examples.

Do you care and support each other during difficult times? E.g. The last time you were ill who took care of you? Care and support between household members (illness/disability; general advice and support; financial assistance; in-house friendships/cliques; knowledge of each other’s whereabouts).

What is it like sharing with other people’s children? Do you feel part of the family? (Resident children: childcare arrangements, incl school run; play areas/toys; noise; food).

How do you feel about visitors in the house? Non-residents/visitors in the house: general ground rules (incl length of stay). Recent examples relating to:

* Family (incl non-resident children)
* Friends (incl ex-residents)
* Partners

Are there any pets? (Whose are they? Who takes care of them?)

What is the relationship with the neighbours? [level of interaction; quality of relationships; sense of belonging/community].

**Household organisation: legal/financial/housekeeping *(much of this will probably have arisen already)***

Do you have contracts – legal aspects: basis of tenancy/co-operative/ownership arrangements; a hierarchy of residents?

Existence and scope of formal rules (eg lodger agreements, secondary rules, etc). Can you remember the last time someone did not follow any of these formal rules? What happened? How (if at all) resolved?

What do you do about bills? Financial organisation of household (shared v individual; if shared, who is responsible; mechanisms; recent examples):

* rent/mortgage
* household bills (incl TV/Wi-Fi/Phone packages)
* costs of general repairs/maintenance/decoration
* costs of household purchases (eg kitchen items, furniture etc.)

Personal attitude to money and optimal means of organising household finances?

What do you do about food? [Food purchasing (shared v individual; who does the shopping/kitties; choice of shops and products; storage issues; choice of dishes; issues re food politics etc)]

Energy Use (any restrictions; how much/little is acceptable; eco issues more generally?)

House repair, maintenance and investment: gardening/allotments, DIY, decorating (who does it? how negotiated? Recent examples)

How are house chores divided? Daily household chores (cleaning, cooking, washing up etc): divisions of labour/rotas; monitoring; tensions/cleanliness/hygiene)

Do you think it is cheaper to live this way when you compare it with previous accommodation settings? Perception of costs and fairness of current household cf previous households (both shared and non-shared).

**Motivation/ideology**

Current living arrangements v ideal living arrangements (same? different?)

What do your family/friends think of your current living arrangements?

Points of commonality and difference with others in household; sense of commitment to others in house; how would you describe your relationships with those you live with?

(Where relevant and not already covered: What is the history of/background to this household?)

Who is the ideal housemate? Good/bad qualities e.g. keeping yourself to yourself.

*And What sort of a housemate do you think you are?*

Tolerance in relation to morality/personal ethics (eg drunken behaviour, drugs, food ethics…; occasions when you felt offended by one of your housemates – why, how resolved)

Process for selecting new members (how advertised; prerequisites and no-nos; who decides; tensions; details of last changeover)

Decision-Making: how and where are decisions usually discussed? Eg of last decision/issue discussed).

**Lifecourse (Future)**

Have your housing expectations changed as you have got older? If so, how? (issues of tenure?)

Have your views of shared living changed as you have got older?

Is shared living your ideal way of living?

How do you see yourself in the next 5 years? Do you think you will still be living in a shared household? Why/why not?

If no: under what circumstances might you imagine yourself living in shared housing again in the future?

If yes: under what circumstances might you imagine yourself not living in shared housing in the future?

Anything else to add?