**Participant Information Sheet for Building Resilience Recovery College course evaluation**

 **Invitation**

You are being invited to take part in an evaluation of the Building Resilience Recovery College course which you have attended. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the study is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Please ask one of your Recovery College Course facilitators if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part in the evaluation.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

This course and its evaluation are concerned with resilience. There are different definitions of resilience but all involve the ability of people to successfully respond to tough times and challenging situations in their lives. We will try to evaluate how people from the Recovery college, the Sussex Partnership NHS Trust and the University of Brighton can work together to increase people’s resilience and improve their futures. We hope that this will help us learn more about resilience and about partnership working.

The evaluation will also contribute information to a wider research project called the Imagine project. It has received research ethics approval from the University of Brighton. The web site is <http://www.imaginecommunity.org.uk/> . Imagine involves a number of community university partnership projects in Crete, England, Germany, Scotland and Wales. It is part of The Imagine project is funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council in collaboration with the Arts and Humanities *Connected Communities* research programme (<http://connected-communities.org/>). Part of the study may be carried out by a supervised occupational therapy student and used towards a university qualification.

**Why have I been chosen?**

You are being invited to take part in the research as a participant because you are taking part in the Building Resilience Recovery College course.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. Whether you take part in the evaluation or not does not affect your participation in this or future Recovery College courses. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. You are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

Your involvement will involve at least one of the following:

* One individual or group interview lasting no longer than an hour. The interview will be audio-taped.
* Completing a course evaluation questionnaire.
* Anonymous information and items that are produced during the course may also be studied. For example: meeting notes; resilience rating scales; workshop plans; creative items (eg collages, drawings, videos).

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

The time and inconvenience of participating – though often people find this a positive experience.

It is also possible that you may find thinking and talking about resilience distressing – particularly if topics relate to tough times you have faced or are currently facing. Again in our experience of resilience research people usually find this a positive experience – but we will make sure that there is someone to support you if you do become distressed.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Increased understanding of using resilience based approaches in your home, work or community life.

**What will happen if I don’t want to carry on with the study?**

You can withdraw from the study at any time without incurring any negative effects.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

Yes. Information from interviews will be stored securely (in locked draws and in password protected files) by the University and the Sussex Partnership Trust Audit Department. It will be used for the production articles, presentations and reports about the study. The raw data will be retained for 10 years and will be disposed of securely.

Anonymised versions of the transcripts (typed records of the research interviews) will also be archived and no person will be identifiable in these transcripts. All names of any sort and other identifying material will be removed from the transcripts to ensure anonymity. The anonymised transcripts will be made available to partners from the Trust, Recovery College and University involved in the project. The funding from the Economic and Social Research Council requires that anonymised versions of the transcripts will be placed in the Council’s research archive in accordance with their secure storage procedures.

You may wish your contribution to producing a workshop or creative item to be acknowledged by having your name published. However this will only happen if you confirm this in writing. Similarly, you may agree to appear in a photo or video of a project activity. This will also only happen with your written consent.

**What will happen to the results of the evaluation study?**

The results of the study will be published in one or more papers, at conferences, and at community events. You will not be identified in any report/publication unless you have expressly indicated in in writing that you wish to be identified.

**What if there is a problem?**

Should you have a problem with the research please contact any of the following:

Contact Details:

Sussex Recovery College contact Louise Patmore – louise.patmore@sussexrecoverycollege.org

Sussex Partnership Trust contact Lucy Locks – lucy.locks@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk

Professor Angie Hart a.hart@brighton.ac.uk University of Brighton

**Consent Form**

**Title of Project: Building Resilience Recovery College course evaluation (linked to:** Imagine: building better and more resilient collective futures through community university partnerships).

Name of person collecting consent:

1. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ agree to be involved in this evaluation of the Building Resilience Recovery College course which also investigates how to build better and more resilient collective futures through community university partnerships. I give my permission for project researchers to use anonymous excerpts from the interview.

2. [*name of person collecting consent]* has explained to my satisfaction the purpose of the study. I have been informed of the nature and purposes of the study and have read the information sheet. I understand the principles and processes of the study.

3. I am aware that I may be invited to participate in an interview that will be recorded on audio tape. I indicate my agreement to be interviewed by ticking this box

4. I am aware that project materials as detailed in the information sheet may also be studied.

4. Confidentiality arrangements

I understand that my personal details (including my contact details) will remain confidential. Raw data will be stored in a secure area and destroyed after 10 years. I understand that relevant (anonymous) sections of any of data collected during the study may be looked at by evaluators and researchers on this project. I understand that anonymised transcripts will also be archived with the Economic and Social Research Council and may be analysed by other approved researchers and that and no respondent will be identifiable in these transcripts

5. Right to withdraw

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason, without my rights being affected

6. How the information will be used.

I understand that the data collected will be used as part of an evaluation and wider research study. I understand that the data will be used in writing up and disseminating the Building Resilience Recovery College evaluation and linked “Imagine: building better and more resilient collective futures through community university partnerships.” research. I understand that only anonymous excerpts from the study will be used in this write up.

7. I agree to take part in the above study.

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Name of Participant Date Signature

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Name of Person taking consent Date Signature