**Women’s experiences of ageing with HIV:**

**Information sheet for life story interview participants**

**What is this research about?**

This study is exploring women’s experiences of growing older with HIV. I am looking at how women living with HIV think about ageing, what needs and challenges they might face, and how they adapt to and meet these new needs. I am also interested in understanding how belonging to a community and finding social support might help.

**Who is doing this research?**

My name is Jacqui Stevenson, and I am a PhD student at the University of Greenwich in the department of Family Care and Mental Health. This research is part of my studies to gain a PhD. The research is being carried out within this department under supervision, and has been reviewed and approved by the University Research Ethics Committee. I have worked with HIV charities for the past seven years, and am very interested in women, gender and HIV.

**Why are you doing this research?**

The number of older people living with HIV is growing and will keep increasing. Our needs change as we get older, and it is important that we understand how people living with HIV might experience ageing so we know and can prepare to meet different needs.

**Why do you want me to take part?**

These life story interviews are an opportunity for older women living with HIV to share their stories, and describe their own experiences of ageing, their needs and how they are coping with them. I want women aged 50 and over, who are living with HIV, to take part. I also want to make sure that lots of different experiences are represented, so will be recruiting women with diverse experiences such as of migration, sexuality, gender identity, and disability.

**What do I need to do?**

If you agree to take part, the first step will be a phone call lasting about 10 minutes where I will ask you some questions about yourself. This is because I want to recruit women with different experiences. If you are selected to take part, I will invite you to participate and we will arrange a convenient time and venue, at the offices of a charity or another convenient place. The interview will last a maximum of two hours, and will be recorded. You will be able to take breaks as you wish to. I will ask you a few questions, but mostly it will be you talking and sharing, describing your experiences of ageing and what is important to you about it, your community and where you find support and what needs you have and how you meet them.

Every participant will be given £20 in cash as a thank you for your time taking part, and another £20 to cover travel and other expenses, for each interview you take part in.

You will also have an opportunity to take part in up to two further interviews. This will be your choice, and you will be able to decide whether or not you want to take part after the first interview. There will be a gap of a few weeks between each interview.

**What information do you need from me and will it be confidential?**

Your confidentiality is really important and will be maintained throughout the research. Your information will be securely stored, within the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your name and contact details will be stored separately from other information you give me, including about your HIV status and anything you say during the life story interview. After the life story interviews, any identifying or contact details I have about you will be destroyed.

I will make audio recordings of the life story interviews so I have an accurate record of everything that is said. These recordings will be held securely. I will transcribe the recordings into a written record, and will anonymise them so your name and other details will not be included. After transcribing, I will destroy the recordings. The anonymised transcripts will then be used in the research.

You have the right to withdraw from the research at any time without the need for explanation.

**What happens next?**

The transcripts from the life story interviews will form part of the overall research project. I will also be carrying out interviews and looking at other research in this area. This will all be brought together and I will write it up in a thesis. The research may also be published and presented in articles, blogs, at conferences and in other ways.

**Who will benefit from the research?**

The research will use the experiences of women growing older with HIV to provide information about what needs and experiences older women with HIV have, and what services and support they might need. It is hoped this will provide ideas and recommendations to better meet their needs, so women living with HIV will benefit.

**How do I find out more?**

Contact me at email: [j.k.stevenson@gre.ac.uk](mailto:j.k.stevenson@gre.ac.uk) or phone: 07391725883 and I will be happy to talk about the research with you and answer your questions.