**Participant Information Sheet **

**Participant ID: 1**

**Pilot Study of a Student-led Peer Support Wellbeing Programme**

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

We would like to understand your thoughts and opinions on the Student Wellbeing programme that you have just completed during semester 2. We would like to understand your thoughts on the how useful the wellbeing materials were – did they help you during the semester? We would also like to identify any strengths and weaknesses of the pilot scheme and hear your thoughts on any recommendations you can suggest. We need approximately 24 students for the focus groups, and recruitment will be made on a first come, first serve basis.

**Who is conducting the study?**

The study is being conducted by myself andstaff from the School of Psychology and Biomedical Sciences at Ulster University. The focus groups will be conducted by a Researcher who is independent of the study.

**Who can take part in the study?**

You are invited to take part if you:

● Are over 18

● Are enrolled as first-year Psychology student or PASS leader

● Took part in the student-led peer support programme

**What will I be asked to do?**

If you agree to take part, you will be invited to take part in a small focus group discussion comprised of approximately 8 fellow students. This will take place in the School of Psychology at UUC or online via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. The discussion will focus on your views and thoughts about the strengths, weaknesses and possible improvements for the wellbeing programme. Discussions will be audio recorded and the recording will be transcribed into a written account for analysis of qualitative themes and sub-themes.

**Do I have to take part?**

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you are under no obligation to take part. If you decide to take part, you are free to decline to answer any questions without giving a reason.

**How do I withdraw from the study?**

If you decide to take part, but later wish to withdraw, please email myself using the address below and quote your Participant ID (located at the top left-hand corner of this form). Please note, that withdrawal will be possible for 1-week following focus group discussions. All attempts will be made to remove your data from focus groups discussions.

**Are there any risks involved in participation?**

Your non-participation or withdrawal will have no impact on your studies. We understand that some students may not want to avail of the current study. If you are concerned about your own wellbeing please contact Student Wellbeing (details at the end of this sheet).

**What will happen to the information collected during this study?**

All identifiers will be removed during transcription and the published results will be anonymous. Data from this study will be published in a report and in academic journals. All information from the study will be stored securely in the School of Psychology, Ulster University for 10 years and kept in accordance with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 (we have provided a separate information sheet for you which details how Ulster University will look after your personal information).

If you have any questions about the study, please contact me (Dr Kelly Norwood) via email: [k.norwood@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:k.norwood@ulster.ac.uk)

**Would you like to talk to someone about problems you are experiencing? Please consider using the support information below (Student Wellbeing at Ulster University).**

**It’s ok not to feel ok**

**Student Wellbeing**

● **Phone: 02895367000**

● **Email:** [**studentwellbeing@ulster.ac.uk**](mailto:studentwellbeing@ulster.ac.uk)

**24 Hour Helplines**

● **Lifeline: 0808 808 8000**

● **Inspire: 0800 028 5510**

**Compliance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018**

Ulster University is the sponsor or managing organisation for this study and we will use information gathered from you and/or your record in order to carry it out.

We will act as the data controller, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly, as stipulated in GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Ulster University will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished, until 2030.

You can find out more about how we look after your information at:

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/about/governance/compliance/gdpr>

As a University we use personal identifying information to conduct research to review and improve people’s health, wellbeing and care, the services they use and our understanding of the world in which we live. As a publicly funded organisation, we have to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use identifying information from people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a study, we will use your data to conduct the research and analyse the information and findings.

We need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate and therefore your rights to access, change or move your information are limited.

You should note that if you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal identifying information possible.

Health, care and other human research should serve the public interest, which means that we have to demonstrate that our research serves the interests of society as a whole. We do this by following University and appropriate UK policies and codes of practice.

The only people in the University who will have access to your personal identifying information will be those who need to contact you for the study or to carry out audits of the research.

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO).

Our Data Protection Officer is Eamon Mullan; you can contact him at [e.mullan@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:e.mullan@ulster.ac.uk).