**Intro**

The Sustainable Care Research Programme is a multi-disciplinary ESRC-funded programme (2017-2021) exploring how care arrangements can be made sustainable and deliver wellbeing outcomes. It aims to support policy and practice actors and scholars to conceptualise sustainability in care as an issue of rights, values, ethics and justice, as well as of resource distribution.

To better understand the factors that support sustainable care, this team’s work is comparing the care systems that have emerged over the past twenty years in the UK’s four nations (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales).

Since the UK legislated to devolve powers in the field of health and social care to these nations’ parliaments, increasing differences have developed between their care systems. These are evident in variation in attitudes and policy aims and in different practices regarding care markets, privatisation of services and reliance upon, and support for, the paid and unpaid work of care. The differences offer a ‘natural experiment’ for theorising the relationship between care policy, care arrangements and care outcomes.

* Ensure participant information sheet has been read
* Ensure consent form has been signed
* Ensure participant is comfortable and is ready to begin

What we are trying to do is to get participants to think big about social care, about the whole ecosystem of families, of local government, the third sector, informal networks, neighbours, the role of benefits and the framing of what we understand to be social care: how is it conceptualised in our country, how has your country taken a different route?

**Warm up questions**

How did you begin working in social care?

What is your current role?

**Social care**

1. What does the term ‘social care’ mean to you?
2. How would you characterise the social care system in…?
3. What are the main features of that system in (England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland)?

**Composition**

1. What is the nature of unpaid care in (England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland)?
2. What is the nature of the market for social care in (England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland)?
3. Is there a ‘grey market’ for social care? What are its features? (payment for informal help, possibly from cleaners/local people known to offer help, unregulated etc)
4. What are the features of state action in social care in (England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland)?
5. What is the profile of the workforce in the system?

**Cultural and Economic factors**

1. What values drive the trajectory of English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish social care?
2. How do norms about families and gender play a role in constituting the system in (England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland)?
3. How has the changing nature of family structure changed the system in (England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland)?
4. How does the economic structure of (England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland) influence the system?
5. How far does the ‘marketisation’ (privatisation of provision) of social care influence the nature of the system?
6. Does rurality/urbanity influence the nature of care in (England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland)?
7. Does population diversity influence the nature of care in (England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland)?
8. Is the system ‘regional’ rather than national?

**Inputs**

1. How is social care funded in (England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland)?
2. What is the role of taxation?
3. What is the role of insurance?
4. What is the role of private expenditure?
5. How much does it cost to provide informal care? What are the opportunity costs to the carer? To the economy?
6. What is the extent of economic exploitation in the system?

**Devolution and International Situation**

1. How do you think the (England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland) system compares with the rest of the UK?
2. How do you think it compares with other developed nations?

**Policy narratives**

1. What does ‘personalisation’ mean in a social care context? What role has ‘Personalisation’ played in shaping the system as you have described?
2. What does ‘wellbeing’ mean in a social care context? What role has ‘wellbeing’ played in shaping the system as you have described?
3. What does ‘prevention’ mean in a social care context? What role has ‘prevention’ played in shaping the system as you have described?
4. What does ‘integration’ mean in a social care context? What role has ‘integration’ played in shaping the system as you have described?
5. What does ‘outcomes’ mean in a social care context? What role has ‘outcomes’ played in shaping the system as you have described?
6. What does ‘asset-based’ mean in a social care context? What role have ‘asset-based’ approaches played in shaping the system as you have described?
7. What does ‘sustainability’ mean in a social care context?
8. Is the system as a whole sustainable?
9. What things could make it sustainable?

**Impact**

1. How does the nature of the system impact:

* The way families are structured.
* Economic productivity?
* Wellbeing?
* Independence?
* Unmet need
* Loneliness and Isolation

**Warm-down**

1. Do you have any final comments regarding what we have talked about today?
2. Do you have any questions about how we will use your input?

Thank the participant for their time, and confirm they are happy to proceed as outlined in the consent form and participant information sheet.