# **Designing Homes for Healthy Cognitive Ageing (DesHCA) Project – Serious Game Playtests**

# **Participant Information Sheet**

**Background**

The Designing Homes for Healthy Cognitive Ageing (DesHCA) project aims to identify housing designs that can support older people, including those living with cognitive change, to live well at home for longer. Improved housing design can enable better lives, by helping to postpone the impact of cognitive change, improve quality of life, and prevent admission to care settings.

Over the three-year lifespan of the DesHCA project, we are inviting older people, including those living with cognitive change, to participate in a wide variety of research activities. These activities include home mapping exercises, to help us to better understand how people’s homes work for them; using virtual reality to test potential design solutions; and creating demonstrators to test how the designs might be implemented.

The DesHCA project is led by a team of researchers at the University of Stirling, alongside partners including local authorities, building companies, and games developers, who are all helping to inform the research and implement the resulting design solutions.

Invitation

We would like to invite you to take part in a playtest of our Serious Game. The Serious Game is a tool we are developing to help ensure that findings of the DesHCA project can be implemented in the real world. Taking part will involve either “fast-fail” tests where we will engage with specific parts of the game, or full tests where we will play through the entire game. Both fast-fail and full tests will involve discussions with researchers about your experience of playing the game.

Any feedback you can provide us about your experience of playing the Serious Game will help us to develop and improve the game. Serious Game further. It will be used as a learning tool in later stages of the research and made available as a legacy tool at the end of the DesHCA project.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because you are an individual living in Scotland with lived experience of ageing or cognitive change and have expressed interest in taking part in the DesHCA project.

Or, because you are a professional working in housing, design, local authorities, occupational therapy, health and social care, third sector organisations, or similar occupations who has expressed interest in taking part in the DesHCA project.

Do I have to take part?

No, you do not have to take part. You may also be invited to participate in other aspects of this study; however, you are not obliged to accept this or any other research invitations, even if you have participated in another part of the project.

If you decide to take part, you can withdraw your participation at any time, without needing to explain, and without penalty. You only need to tell the research team of your decision.

You may also choose to withdraw any data that we have collected from or about you during the event by contacting us within 30 days and asking for your data to be withdrawn. You do not have to give a reason for this choice, and there is no penalty associated with doing so. Please note that due to the nature of group activities, and how they are recorded, it may not be possible to completely remove all data related to you or generated by you. Similarly, after 30 days once the data are being analysed and/or later when results are published it may not be possible to remove your data from the study.

You may keep this information sheet for as long as you wish to. If you choose to take part in the event, you will be sent a consent form ahead of time. You may complete this online, or to complete a physical copy which you can return to the research team by post or in-person on the day of the event.

Please note that choosing not to take part in this aspect of our research will not affect your ability to contribute to other parts of the study.

What will happen if I take part?

If you decide to take part, you will join members of the research team and other individuals at a half-day, in-person event, either in a morning or afternoon at an agreed upon venue, typically the University of Stirling campus. In some circumstances the playtests may be held online using platforms such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

The event is designed to explore the development of our Serious Game. Each playtest will begin with an introduction from a member of the research team explaining the context and purpose of the game and the purpose of the playtest. Volunteer participants will then be invited to play the game, with a member of the research team facilitating the activity.

**How will you use my data?**

Information gained from this event will be used to inform further development and iterations of the Serious Game.

Please be assured that we will never ask you to disclose any information that might be considered sensitive or damaging to you as an individual or the organisation in which you work. We advise participants not to share commercially sensitive information during the events and we request that participants do not relay the specifics of discussions during the event to others outside the participant group.

All data collected during the event will be anonymised and archived as part of the research process, as is required by the project funder, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Anonymised data will be uploaded to the UK Data Service, which is a database of anonymised outputs from previous ESRC-funded projects, which is accessible to fellow researchers. Your anonymised data will only be shared on this database with your consent. For further information, please see <https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/about>

All information shall be collected for the sole use by named researchers on the project, for the sole purpose of the project, (See above). Information shall be anonymised on receipt and stored safely within University of Stirling servers with access limited to project personnel only. Once the research is complete, anonymised data will be archived in accordance with University of Stirling Data Management protocols. Information will not be distributed to third parties, (including other project partners), without prior express written consent.

Detailed information about how we will manage your personal data and your rights under GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) legislation, can be found in the Data Management Information Sheet you have been given.

Are there any potential risks in taking part?

We do not anticipate any risks involved in this phase of the study.

All events arranged by the DesHCA project will take into account the current guidance around COVID-19

Are there any benefits in taking part?

There are no direct benefits from taking part in this research. However, we hope that you will find it an enjoyable experience, and your contribution will be of great value to our work.

Will the research be published?

Knowledge gained from the event will be used to inform the development of the Serious Game and may be used in other research activities within DesHCA such as future playtests and workshops involving the Serious Game.

The data from this event may also be published in a variety of formats including academic journal articles, conference presentations, blogs on the project website, policy briefs, and professional training materials. Data used in this way will always be anonymised to protect your identity.

The University of Stirling is committed to making research publicly accessible. So, unless funder/publisher requirements prevent us, this research will be shared publicly through our open-access repository, known as STORRE.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is funded by the UKRI (UK Research and Innovation) Economic and Social Research Council, as part of their Healthy Ageing Challenge Social Behavioural and Design Research Programme.

Who has reviewed this research project?

The ethical approaches of this project have been approved via the University of Stirling General University Ethics Panel.

Who do I contact if I have more questions about the study?

If you would like to discuss the research with someone, please contact the DesHCA research team at deshcaresearch@stir.ac.uk to receive more information.

Who do I contact if I have concerns about this study or I wish to complain?

If you have concerns or wish to complain about this research you may contact Professor Liz Forbat, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, by email at elizabeth.forbat1@stir.ac.uk.

Thank you for your interest in this project.