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The Division of Health  
Research

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology



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### **Stroke research study - request for help**

- **Have you or your partner had a stroke whilst aged 55 or under, at least 1 year ago?**
- **Have you been in your relationship together for at least 2 years?**
- **Would you both like to take part in a research study?**

**If ALL of the above apply, please read on.**

**We are looking for couples to take part in an interview together to help us to understand their joint experience when one partner has a stroke at a young age**

Please note that due to travel constraints, I may only be able to interview those within the North West region but please do respond if you live elsewhere, as this may also be possible.

For further details, please contact:

**Researcher:** Karen Quinn, Trainee Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Psychology Programme, Division of Health Research, School of Health and Medicine, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YT

**Telephone:** [insert research mobile number]

**Email:** [k.quinn@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:k.quinn@lancaster.ac.uk)

**Study title:** The experience of couples when one partner has a stroke at a young age: a qualitative investigation

Please note that receipt of an information pack does not commit you to take part; full details of taking part are contained within the information pack.

## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Study title: The experience of couples when one partner has a stroke at a young age**

Would you like to take part in a research project to help us understand the experience of both partners when a person has a stroke at a young age (55 or less when the stroke occurred)? We are looking for couples who are willing to be interviewed together. Before you both decide whether you would like to take part, please consider the following information to help you be clear about exactly what taking part would involve.

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

The purpose of this study is to explore the experience of couples when one partner has a stroke at a young age. This will include exploring the process that couples go through following the stroke and the impact this has upon their relationship. This information will help us to improve our understanding of how services and professionals can best help those who have had a stroke at a young age and their partners.

### **Why have we been approached to take part?**

You are both being invited to take part in this study because one of you experienced a stroke whilst aged 55 years or under, over one year ago. So that we can fully explore the effect of the stroke upon your relationship, we are also only inviting those who were in their current relationship for at least one year before the stroke although this could be up to any number of years.

### **Do we have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not you wish to take part. If you do decide to take part, you are also still free to withdraw from the study up to two weeks after the interview. If one partner should decide to withdraw from the study during this time period, we will also be unable to include their partner's interview data. Whether or not you take part will not have any effect upon any services you receive, including any support groups you attend.

### **Can I take part alone if my partner is unwilling?**

Unfortunately, as the exact purpose of this research is to understand how both partners have experienced the stroke, we are unable to interview anyone when their partner does not wish to take part.

### **What will we be asked to do if we take part?**

If you both agree to take part, you will be asked to take part in one joint interview with the researcher which will last approximately one and a half hours and the researcher will visit you at home for this. It is important for you to discuss taking part together before you make your decision as you both need to be comfortable with talking openly together with the researcher about your experiences of the stroke, including how this has affected your relationship.

You will need to complete the opt-in form and return this to the researcher using the enclosed pre-paid envelope and the researcher will contact you to arrange a suitable interview time. When the researcher visits you, you will both be asked to sign a consent form stating you agree to take part and the interview will be audio-recorded.

### **Will everyone who wants to take part be included in the research?**

We hope to be able to include everyone who is willing to take part; however, time restrictions mean the maximum number of couples that can be interviewed is 12. Therefore, should more than 12 couples wish to take part, we will use the information you gave us in the opt-in form to select people with the most similar circumstances to each other. If you wish to take part and are not selected for the research interview, we will still contact you, explaining this is because we had more willing couples than we needed.

**What will happen to our data?**

Once the interview is completed, your audio recording will be typed up and will be destroyed once the report has been written. The written records will be stored securely in a locked cabinet at the University for five years and then destroyed. Anonymised quotes from your interview may be used in the reports although there could still remain a possibility of you being identifiable by someone who knows either or both of you.

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

The information gathered from all the participant interviews will be summarised together to produce a report which will form part of the researcher's Thesis for her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology qualification. It is intended that the research report will also be submitted to a scientific journal for publication. If you would like, you can be sent a summary report of the results once the study is completed.

**Where can we obtain further information if I need it?**

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the researcher: Karen Quinn, Trainee Clinical Psychologist. Clinical Psychology Programme, Division of Health Research, School of Health and Medicine, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YT

Email: [k.quinn@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:k.quinn@lancaster.ac.uk) Telephone: [insert research mobile number]

**What do I do if I have a concern or a complaint concerning this project?**

If you wish to raise any concerns or a complaint about this research project, please contact Dr Jane Simpson (Division of Health Research, Bowland Tower East, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YT) on 01524 592858 or [j.simpson2@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:j.simpson2@lancaster.ac.uk) in her capacity as Research Director of Clinical Psychology Programme.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.**