**The Different Perspectives on terms used in The Mental Capacity Act (2005), such as “Capacity”, “Unwise Decisions”, and “Best Interests”**

Participant Information Sheet: Public

You have been invited to take part in a research study looking at what people understand by the terms and concepts within the Mental Capacity Act (2005). Before deciding whether or not to take part, please read this information sheet carefully and let us know if anything is unclear or you would like further information.

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

The study is designed to explore different perspectives on key terms in the Mental Capacity Act (2005), for example: capacity, unwise decisions, and best interests. You will be asked how you interpret each of these terms and how you think they could be assessed. This is not a test of your knowledge, but rather the aim of the study is to examine how different people understand these terms. Findings from this study will be used to inform future practice of professionals working with the Mental Capacity Act (2005), with the aim of enhancing future service user experience.

**Who is undertaking the study and how is it funded?**

The research is being undertaken by Maddie Tait, a student at the University of York completing the Master’s degree in Social Work Practice (Think Ahead). Maddie has a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work and is currently employed as a social worker by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust. She is undertaking the study as part of her degree, not in her role as a social worker. The supervisor of this study is Dr Nicola Moran (Senior Researcher, International Centre for Mental Health Social Research, University of York). The study is not funded.

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

This study aims to gather a diverse range of views and perspectives, whether you have any pre-existing knowledge of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) or have never heard of it before.

**What will I have to do if I choose to take part in this study?**

If you choose to take part in this study, then you will be invited to meet with Maddie to carry out an interview lasting around one hour. The time and location of the interview will be arranged with yourself beforehand. You will receive a £10 shopping voucher as a thank you for your time at the end of the interview. You will be reimbursed for any travel costs (receipts/tickets will be required, mileage expensed at 0.45p per mile). If any of the content of the interview causes you to feel distressed or upset, then you will be able to take as many breaks as you need, and to end the interview at any time. Maddie will be able to signpost you to other relevant organisations if you feel you require extra support or guidance as a result of the content of the interview.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, participation is optional. If you do decide to take part, you will be given a copy of this information sheet for your records and will be asked to complete a consent form. If you change your mind at any point during the interview, you will be able to withdraw your participation without having to provide a reason.

**How will you use my data?**

Your interview will be audio-recorded, with your consent, and transcribed. It will be completely anonymised. The audio-recording will be destroyed, and the anonymised transcripts will be stored securely on the encrypted University of York secure fileserver. The anonymised transcribed interviews will be used to contribute to a written research report as part of Maddie’s Master’s degree. You will be entitled to withdraw from the study up until 4 weeks after the interview, even if you consented to the interview taking place and did not withdraw during the interview.

**Will my data be kept confidential?**

Information will be treated confidentially. You will not be identified in any research report. All data will be anonymised and you will be known only by an ID number that only the researcher can link to your name. A direct quote from your interview may be used in the written report at the end of this research study, but only with your direct consent as indicated on the consent form, and only where there is nothing in the quote that could identify you. Nobody other than the research team at the University of York will be told who has taken part or what any individual has said. However, if it is felt that information you share indicates that your or somebody else is at risk of harm, then it may be necessary for Maddie to break confidentiality and share her concerns with her academic supervisor at the University of York and possibly other relevant authorities as appropriate. Where possible this will be discussed with you beforehand.

**How do I take part?**

If you would like to take part in the study, or find out more information about the study, please contact Maddie Tait on mmt511@york.ac.ukor 07966168862. If you have any concerns about this study you may contact Maddie’s academic supervisor at the University of York, Dr Nicola Moran, at [nicola.moran@york.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.moran@york.ac.uk)

Thank you for reading this information sheet. I look forward to hearing from you.