

## **INFORMATION SHEET**

### **Construction of self and significant others in Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD): A study using multiple sorting procedure.**

My name is Gina Smith and I am a trainee clinical psychologist at Surrey University. I would like to invite you to take part in a study I am conducting as part of my training course. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being carried out and what it will involve for you as a participant. Please take time to read the following carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish.

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

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) is a condition in which people suffer with repeated and upsetting obsessions, compulsions or more commonly both. An obsession is a distressing image, thought or urge which intrudes frequently into a person's mind e.g. a fear about harming others. A compulsion is an act that a person feels compelled to perform repeatedly e.g. washing hands or mental counting.

I am interested in the way people with OCD symptoms think and feel about themselves and other important people in their lives (e.g. family, friends, colleagues) as compared to those without OCD symptoms.

#### **What will happen if I decide to take part?**

I will ask you to fill in 15-20 cards with names of significant people in your life. I will then ask you to sort the cards into groups in such a way that all cards in any one group are similar to each other in an important way and different from those in the other groups e.g. you may sort the cards based on height and have the groups taller than me, shorter than me, about the same height as me.. When you have sorted the cards I will ask you to tell me on what basis you have sorted the cards and what is similar about all the cards in each group and record this information. We will repeat this process several times. I will then ask you to sort the cards into some groups specified by me.

#### **Why have I been approached?**

You have been approached either because you have OCD symptoms or because you have similar demographic characteristics such as age, sex, and occupational group to somebody with OCD symptoms who has already taken part.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. Taking part in the study is voluntary. No-one will be informed of the decision you make regardless of whether or not you agree to participate. You do not need to give a reason if you do not wish to take part, and you are free to withdraw at any time. If you agree to take part you will be asked to sign a consent form. After signing the consent form you are still free to change your mind and withdraw from the study at any time.

**What are the possible risks of taking part?**

There are no foreseeable risks associated with taking part in the study.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

We cannot promise that the study will help you directly. However it is hoped that the information obtained will help enhance our understanding of OCD. People often find this an enjoyable task to do.

**What if there is a problem?**

If you have any concerns about the study, or you would like to complain, please contact Dr Sue Thorpe, Research Director, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7XH.

**Will the information I provide be kept confidential?**

Your confidentiality will be carefully safeguarded in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998). All information provided, including any comments you make, will be kept strictly confidential. Your name and any other identifiable information will be removed from the information you provide, stored separately to the data and destroyed at the end of the study. Anonymised data will be kept for 10 years after the completion of the study and then destroyed.

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

The results of the study will be written up and submitted for my final year research project. Depending on the findings they may also be submitted for publication in a peer reviewed journal. No participant will be identifiable in any publication. If you would like a summary of the results, please let me know and this will be sent to you by email.

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