

## **Community Volunteers for the GAP study**

We are conducting a research project, based at King's College London, to investigate the causes of serious mental disorder (the Genetics and Psychosis Study). For this, we need the help of a representative group of community volunteers in south-east London.

### **Why do we need your help?**

To understand why some people develop a serious mental disorder it is necessary for us to compare those with a disorder to a representative sample of people without a disorder on a range of factors (e.g., life experiences, cognitive abilities, and biological markers (such as genes)).

### **What will I be asked to do and how long will it take?**

There are three different elements of the study. All parts of the study are optional (i.e., you may choose to complete some and not others). You will be compensated for each element of the study that you complete and have the opportunity to receive up to £40.

- **Interviews** About past experiences, current social circumstances, your thinking and feelings, your lifestyle and your medical and family history (approx. 1.5 hours)
- **Biological markers** A blood sample or a saliva sample if you are uncomfortable with needles (approx. 5 minutes)
- **Cognitive tasks** Puzzle-like tasks using a pen and paper or laptop (approx. 1.5 hours)

### **What are the benefits?**

The study will not be of direct benefit to you, but in helping increase our understanding of the causes of serious mental disorder it may contribute to the provision of better care in the future for sufferers.

### **Where and when will I do the research?**

We are able to do the research anywhere you feel comfortable, including your home or at our institute. We will work around your availability and do the research at a time that is convenient for you. We will cover any necessary costs (e.g., travel, childcare).

### **What happens to the information I provide?**

All information we collect from you is strictly confidential. You will be given a code number and all information you provide will be identifiable only by that code, ensuring all information is held anonymously. We do not share any information without your consent.

**If you have any questions or are interested in participating please let us know.**

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**We look forward to speaking with you!**