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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

ADVANCE - INVEST Study - Injured Veterans' Experiences of Transition

Email: advance-invest@kcl.ac.uk; Tel: 07521043464

We would like to invite you to participate in the ADVANCE-INVEST study, a part of the ADVANCE study, a research study in which your family member is already taking part. This research project being undertaken by a collaboration of the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall, King's College London and Imperial College London and is led by King's College London. You should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you or your family member in any way. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve.

Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

If you would like to take part, or if you have any questions about the study, please let us know on advance-invest@kcl.ac.uk or call or text us on: 07521043464

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the ADVANCE-INVEST study is to better understand the employment and wellbeing outcomes of ex-serving battlefield casualties. Our aim is to understand how battlefield injury gives rise to difficulties due to medical discharge and difficulties in finding new employment, and how these involve and affect their families. We also aim to understand how rehabilitation and transition support services help alleviate these barriers and help veterans with battlefield injuries find fulfilling civilian employment and lifestyle. From these findings, recommendations can be made, particularly for the Ministry of Defence, NHS, Department of Work and Pensions and military charities, on how best to support military personnel during and after Service to ensure successful transition for battlefield casualties who leave the Armed Forces.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited to take part because your family member is taking part in the ADVANCE study. We are asking you to participate because your family member has been identified as someone who has left the military and therefore will be able to help us with the research and

has consented for us to contact you so that we can ask about your experience and perspective. If your family member later withdraws from the study, we would still be very happy to include you in our study.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you or your family member in any way. If you have any questions after reading this information sheet, please contact us on the email or phone number below. If you would like to take part, you will sign a completed Informed Consent Form before submitting any text data. If you continue with this study, you are still free to withdraw your data without giving a reason, until it is no longer practical to do so. This will be for one month after you submit your data, after which time we will be analysing your it along with the other submissions.

Who would not be allowed to take part in the study?

If you are living abroad or are under the age of 18, unfortunately, you will not be able to take part in the study.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you choose to take part in this study, you will be invited to submit any amount of text about your experiences being the family member of an injured, discharged Service member. You would be provided with a link to a site (compatible with mobile phones) in which you would find short summary of participant information, a consent form, and some text boxes in which you would be invited to answer the following question, "How has life been for you since your family member was injured and left the military?" You will be invited to answer this question using prompts, e.g., your personal well-being; your employment; your relationship with your injured loved one.

If you choose to tell us about your experiences, you will then be asked if you would like to take part in a follow-on, in-depth interview about your experiences as a family member of an injured, discharged Service member. This interview would be optional, and we would provide you with further information if you showed an interest in this aspect of the study.

Your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection law (including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018).

What do I have to do if I am interested in participating?

If you have any questions about the study or would like to take part, please contact the team:
Email: advance-invest@kcl.ac.uk
Phone: 0207 848 5351 or 07521043464

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Participants in our other studies have valued the opportunity to tell us their experiences after their family member was injured and left military service. By participating, you will be helping us to better understand the consequences of battlefield injury and rehabilitation for employment and wellbeing outcomes once people leave Service, both for the injured Service member and for their family members. If you are interested, we can also send you a copy of the final report so you can see what we have done and how your participation has helped the study.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

We do not anticipate that there will be risks for taking part in this study. Describing difficult events can, in some cases, be distressing. The ADVANCE Signposting Information Booklet contains information on support services for ex-serving personnel and their families and you may find this helpful if you do become upset. We will also have a clinician available to speak to anyone who might require additional support. The clinician will not be available every day and an appointment would need to be made.

Will anyone know that I took part?

We follow ethical and legal procedures to ensure that your personal details and data are handled confidentially. No personal information about you will be shared with anyone else, including the charity funding the study, outside of the research team. In the unlikely event that you tell us you are at risk of harm to yourself or others, we are bound by a duty of care that requires us to break confidentiality and share your information with our team clinician and other relevant parties, where necessary.

What happens to the data you collect from me, how is it stored and who can see it?

Your data is stored in one of two ways:

1. *Identifiable data*

If you register interest in the ADVANCE-INVEST study, we need to store identifiable data such as your name and email address. We will use these details so that we can contact you if you tell us that you are at risk of harm to yourself or others, or if you indicate that you might like to take part in an online interview. Once the study is complete, the ADVANCE-INVEST study team will delete and no longer have access to your identifiable data. This data is stored securely in a password protected database within the KCL IT systems and KCL act as the 'Data Controllers' meaning that they have the responsibility and control as to what happens with your data and ensures it is protected. These data will also be stored within our other organisations such as Imperial College London secure IT systems who act jointly as 'Data Controllers' meaning they will store and review the data in line with our study objectives. Only the research team have access to these databases.

2. *Pseudonymised data*

The term 'pseudonymised data' means that we strip away any identifiers, such as name, date of birth, and replace it with a unique study code. Pseudonymised data will be kept by KCMHR for 20 years as they may use the pseudonymised data in future research.

Here you can find the King's College London Statement on Use of Personal Data in Research: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/rgei/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research>

What would happen if an urgent mental health risk is disclosed?

The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential, stored securely, and will not be disclosed to any other team member apart from in cases where clinical follow-up is necessary. In this case, the acting Study Clinician will be informed of your identity and contact details.

This will occur if you submit text containing something which makes them seriously concerned about your safety or the safety of others, or about a previously non-disclosed serious crime you or someone else has committed or is about to commit. Under those circumstances, the researcher has a legal requirement to disclose this information to the relevant authorities, which may include informing the police or Social Services.

If the researcher does have serious concerns and believes that they need to disclose this information to the authorities, they will try discuss this with you to ensure that you understand what the team is going to do before telling anyone else.

Who is organising and co-ordinating the study?

The ADVANCE study, in which your family member is a participant, is being co-ordinated by Gp Capt Alex Bennett, DMRC Stanford Hall. He is the Principal Investigator and has overall responsibility for the conduct of the ADVANCE study. The ADVANCE-INVEST study is co-ordinated by Professor Nicola Fear, she is the Principal Investigator at KCMHR. KCMHR is an academic research team at King's College London. KCMHR has been conducting research into issues relevant to current and former members of the UK Armed Forces and their families since 1996. KCMHR is independent of the Ministry of Defence.

What if I change my mind about taking part?

You are free to withdraw at any point of the project, without having to give a reason. Withdrawing from the project will not affect you in any way. You can change your mind about taking part at any time before, during, or after, submitting your text without giving a reason, until it is no longer practical to do so – this will be one month after submitting your data, after which time we will be analysing your data along with the other interviews. If you do change your mind or have any questions after the interview, please contact the research team (details above).

Who is funding this study?

The Headley Court Charity are our principal funder. In addition, we are funded by:

- The ADVANCE Charity
- A direct LIBOR grant from the Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Help for Heroes
- Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown
- Blesma – The Limbless Veterans

- The UK Ministry of Defence

What will happen to the results of the project?

The results of the study will be written up into a report that will be publicly available and used in academic publications and presentations. All outputs will use anonymised data meaning that you will not be able to be identified.

What if I am unhappy with the conduct of the study or study staff?

If you have any concerns or complaints, you are encouraged to contact the Principal Investigator or the research team on the contact numbers provided so we can try and address any issues as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can contact the independent medical officer (contact details available below) who will be available throughout the study. Their sole function is to act independently of the study team to ensure your safety and wellbeing.

Does this study have full ethical approval?

This study has received ethical approval from King's College London. Please ask the Principal Investigator if you would like further details of the approval or to see a copy of the full protocol.

Name and contact details of Principal Investigators:

Principal Investigator, ADVANCE-INVEST:

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Principal Investigator, ADVANCE:

Gp Capt Alex Bennett

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Independent Medical Officer, ADVANCE-INVEST:

Major Paul Amos Simms

amos.simms@kcl.ac.uk

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

If this project has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the project you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information: The Chair, Health Faculties Research Ethics Subcommittee, rec@kcl.ac.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read the information sheet, which you should keep for future reference.