**Participant Information Sheet**

**Exploring the Experiences of Support and Support-Seeking among Adults Affected by Another Person’s Gambling in the UK**

**You are invited to take part in a research study. To help you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Contact us if there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.**

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| **What is the purpose of the study?** |
| This project will explore the experiences of people who have been affected by a friend, family member, guardian, or partner’s gambling in the UK. This project aims to get a better understanding of how those affected by another person’s gambling look for support and how they are currently being supported. This project will interview between 6 to 10 people affected by another person’s gambling. Freya Howell will be conducting this project as part of a Master of Public Health dissertation project at the University of Edinburgh. |
| **Why have I been invited to take part?** |
| The study is interested in interviewing people to understand how people affected by the gambling of another person realise they need support, what it is like to look for support, and what support looks like. |
| **Do I have to take part?** |
| No, it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. Deciding not to take part or withdrawing from the study will not affect the healthcare that you receive, or your legal rights.  |
| **What will happen if I take part?** |
| If you are interested in taking part, please contact the researcher using the details provided below to express your interest. Next, you will be asked to sign a consent form saying you have read this participation sheet and agree to take part. This will be done using an e-signature form, or, by printing off the consent form and scanning it. The researcher will then email you to schedule an interview at a time which is convenient to you. All consenting participants will be asked to do a single online interview on Microsoft teams or a telephone interview lasting a maximum of 90 minutes for individual interviews and 120 minutes if you are taking part in a paired interview with a friend, family member, guardian or partner who has also been affected by the gambling of another person. During this interview we will discuss how you identified yourself as needing support, how you went about looking for support, and what support looks like to you. Participants will also be asked to fill out a questionnaire to describe how the gambling of another person has affected them during the interview. The audio of interviews will be recorded and transcribed by the researcher word-for-word, except for names and locations which will be changed or removed to make sure you remain anonymous.“Thrivin’ Together”, a women-led experience organisation offering support to women who gamble, are in recovery or affected by someone else’s gambling will offer a £20 e-voucher as compensation to interviewed participants for their time and efforts. |
| **Is there anything I need to do or avoid?** |
| There are no special requirements to participating in this project |
| **What are the possible benefits of taking part?** |
| There are no direct benefits to you taking part in this study, but the results from this study might inform the future development of support for those affected by the gambling of another person in the UK. |
| **What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?** |
| During interview, people may become upset when talking about unpleasant experiences looking for support and experiences of support. Reflecting on these topics may also bring up unpleasant memories concerning people’s experiences of gambling harm. If you would like to take a break during the interview, or stop altogether, please let the researcher know and they will terminate or pause the interview for as long as you need.  |
| **What if there are any problems?** |
| If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact the Usher Masters Research Ethics Group (UMREG) umreg@ed.ac.uk who will do their best to answer your questions. |
| **What will happen if I don’t want to carry on with the study?** |
| You can change your mind at any point and stop taking part in the project. You do not need to have a reason for withdrawing from the project.If you schedule an interview and decide you no longer want to take part, please contact the researcher or supervisor using the details provided below. If you wish to withdraw during the interview, please let the researcher know and the interview will be stopped immediately, the recordings deleted, and notes destroyed. If you took part in the interview, you will be able to withdraw up to 14 days after the interview and the recording, interview transcript and notes will be deleted. If you choose to withdraw after this period, any recordings and transcript of your interview will be deleted, but it will not be possible to remove your anonymised data from the report. |
| **What happens when the study is finished?** |
| All interview recordings, transcripts, questionnaires, and consent forms will be kept on DataStore, Edinburgh University’s secure data storage facility. Once the assessment is complete in Autumn of 2024, original recordings and participant consent forms will be deleted. Anonymised transcripts will be kept for one year, whilst the project is submitted for peer review in scientific journals. After this, all transcripts and questionnaires will be deleted.Those who wish to be compensated by the organisation “Thrivin’ Together” for their time and efforts will need to consent to the sharing of their email address with this organisation. Additionally, those who wish to receive a short report summarising the findings of this project will need to consent to be contacted after the project has finished. |
| **Will my taking part be kept confidential?** |
| All the information we collect during the course of the research will be kept confidential and there are strict laws which safeguard your privacy at every stage.We will need to collect the following personal identifiable information from you for this research study:Age, Gender, County ResidenceAny data that contains names and personal identifiers will be removed so that you cannot be identified. All electronic data including eligibility questionnaires, consent forms, audio recordings and questionnaire responses will be stored on the University of Edinburgh’s network drive which can only be accessed with a secure password. All audio recordings will be encrypted. Relevant sections of data collected during the study may be looked at by individuals from the University of Edinburgh, and from regulatory authorities where it is relevant. Only the researcher will have access to raw data.  |

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| **Where can you find out more about how your information is used?** |
| Please contact the researcher with the contact details provided. For further information about how the University of Edinburgh will use your personal data please see [www.ed.ac.uk/data-protection/privacy-notice-research](http://www.ed.ac.uk/data-protection/privacy-notice-research) |
| **What will happen to the results of the study?** |
| This study will be written up as a Master of Public Health Dissertation, a short report for the organisation Thrivin’ Together and may be published in a journal publication**.**You will not be identifiable from any published results. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the short report by email, please communicate this with the researcher and opt-in via the consent form. |
| **Who is organising and funding the research?** |
| This study forms part of an educational qualification in the Master of Public Healthat the University of Edinburgh. “Thrivin’ Together”, a women-led lived experience organisation offering support to women who gamble, are in recovery or affected by someone else’s gambling has offered a £20 e-voucher as a thank you to participants for their time and efforts. Freya Howell will receive no compensation from this group. |
| **Who has reviewed the study?** |
| The study proposal has been reviewed by my academic supervisor Fiona Dobbie and co-developed with the founder of Thrivin’ Together, Nadine Ashworth**.**All research is looked at by an independent group of people called an Ethics Committee. A favourable ethical opinion has been obtained from the Usher Masters Research Ethics Group (UMREG)  |
| **Researcher Contact Details** |
| If you have any further questions about the study, please contact the student researcher Freya Howell email on: s1810790@ed.ac.uk the student researcher’s supervisor Fiona Dobbie email on: Fiona.dobbie@ed.ac.uk |
| **Independent Contact Details** |
| If you would like to discuss this study with someone independent of the study please contact Chistine Evans, Deputy Director of the Master of Public Health Programme, on her email at christine.evans@ed.ac.uk  |
| **Complaints** |
| If you wish to make a complaint about the study please contact:**The Usher Masters Research Ethics Group**Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh, Old Medical School, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9AGEmail: UMREG@ed.ac.uk  |

**CONSENT FORM**

**Qualitative Exploration of the Experiences of Support and Support-Seeking among Adults Affected by Another Person’s Gambling in the UK**

|  | Please **initial** box |
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| 1. I confirm that I have read and understand the information sheet for the above study.

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| **\*Date (DD MMM YYYY)** | **\*Version Number** |
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\**complete during consent process*1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these questions answered satisfactorily.
 | ⬜⬜ |
| 1. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason and without my medical care and/or legal rights being affected.
 | ⬜ |
| 1. I give permission for my personal information (name, telephone number or email address, IP address, and consent form) to be retained on University of Edinburgh servers for administration of the study.
 | ⬜ |
| 1. I understand that data collected about me during the study may be converted to anonymised data.
 | ⬜ |
| 1. I agree to my interview being audio/video recorded and the use of anonymised quotes in research reports and publications.
 | Yes ⬜ No ⬜ |
| 1. I consent to my email address being shared with the organisation “Thrivin’ Together” so that I may be compensated for my time and efforts.
 | Yes ⬜ No ⬜ |
| 1. I consent to being contacted after the study is completed to receive a short report of the findings
 | Yes ⬜ No ⬜ |
| 1. I understand that relevant sections of my data collected during the study may be looked at by individuals from the Sponsor (University of Edinburgh), and from regulatory authorities where it is relevant to my taking part in this research. I give permission for these individuals to have access to my data.

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| 1. I agree to take part in the above study.
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| Name of Person Giving Consent |  | Date |  | Signature/ Thumb Impression\*  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Name of Person Receiving Consent |  | Date |  | Signature/ Thumb Impression\*  |

Signature:

Date:

Place:

1x original – into Site File; 1x copy – to Participant;