

Supplementary Material 1

Discovery phase: public interview topic guide



Understanding experiences of loneliness

Draft Interview topic guide

Provide info leaflet and consent form as required. Talk through and answer questions.

Can you tell me about your experiences of feeling lonely?

How would you describe loneliness to someone who doesn't know the word?

Do you remember when you first experienced loneliness? [*probes; what did you do about it? What were you doing at that time (work, student, school, retired)*]

Was there anything you could do to ease the feeling? [*probes; strategies, exercise, self-help; temporary easing, attending support groups or social activities*].

Do you talk to anyone about feeling lonely? [*Probes; family, friends, GP, social worker, social media. How do people respond if you tell them?*]

What do you think of general attitudes about loneliness in this country? [*probes; recognition of a problem, dismissal, lack of understanding*]

Has any of the social care support you receive helped with feelings of loneliness? [*probes; can you give an example of this, how effective was it? What do you think would or could help?*]

Is there any information about loneliness that you have found useful? [*probes; online, leaflet, social or television media, where did you find it? How did it make you feel? Are there any resources that you would like to see?*]

