**Evaluation of Brightlife – Information sheet**

We invite you to take part in our research study about Brightlife. Brightlife is a programme of local activities to reduce social isolation amongst older people in Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC).

**What is the research about?**

An evaluation of Brightlife is being completed to understand what difference it has made to social isolation amongst older people.

**Who is doing this research?**

Brightlife is part of a national programme. The national programme is being undertaken by Ecorys UK, an independent research company, along with Brunel University and Bryson Purdon Social Research. A local evaluation focussing just on Brightlife is being undertaken by the University of Chester.

**Why am I being invited?**

You have been invited because you are taking part in or have used Brightlife activities or services. We want to find out whether it has made a difference to you.

**Why take part?**

This research is really important. It will help us to understand what is working or not working as well, and help to improve the support available for older people. It will also help local organisations improve any activities they provide in future. It may help local organisations secure future funding if they are able to prove the impact they have had.

**What will it involve?**

The survey will take about 15 minutes to complete. If you agree, we would also like you to complete the survey again at the end of the project, and a final time six months after your formal contact with the project has ended. This will help us to see if anything changes for you. Even taking part once will be a big help, so please do not worry if you are not sure you will be able to do it more than once. The follow up surveys will be given to you by Brightlife at the appropriate time.

The survey contains questions for a wide range of people, so if you cannot answer a question please just leave it, and go to the next one. The decision about what to share, or not share, is yours.

We may also ask you to take part in a face to face interview or group interview with a researcher. It would be held at a location convenient to you. If you would like someone else present during the interview, this is fine. As part of face to face or group interviews you will be asked about your experiences of Brightlife. Before any interview the researcher will ask you to complete and sign a consent form. With your permission interviews/focus groups will be recorded and transcribed to enable reports to be prepared. Any report will not contain personally identifiable data.

Your participation in all aspects of this research is entirely voluntary. If you choose not to participate, all the services you receive through the project will still continue. If you decide to participate and then change your mind at a later date, let us know and the data you have supplied will be destroyed.

The anonymised results of the overall research will be shared with everyone taking part in the programme, through national reports and via social media. These will not mention any of your personal details.

**What will happen to the information I give?**

We will anonymise your information by removing any names or details that might identify you, your friends or family, or other people. This anonymous information will be used for reports, publications and presentations by Brightlife, Ecorys and the University of Chester.

Any identifying information such as your name and contact details will be stored separately to your anonymous replies to the survey.

Your responses will remain completely anonymous. They will be sent to the team working on the evaluation, who will put it together with replies from other people to form an overall view.

Your personal information such as your name and contact details will be stored separately to your replies to the survey in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. This means that your personal data will be stored securely and only a small number of people will have access to this data. Your personal data will not be shared with anyone else in other organisations. Your data will be stored by Brightlife and evaluation partners will only have access to anonymised data.

However, if there appears to be a risk of serious harm to you or anyone else, we will have to ask for help and this may involve giving identifying information to support services. Information relating to disclosures will be passed, as appropriate, to the Social Services and/or Police, or other relevant safeguarding agency only.

Your personal data will be destroyed after the project is completed.

The results of the overall evaluation will be shared with everyone taking part in the programme who has said they would like to see it, through national reports and via social media.

**Any questions?**

If you have any questions or would like some assistance to take part in the research, please ask a staff member or contact Brightlife. You can speak to Mandy Roberts on 01606 884441.

If you consent to take part please sign the consent form and return it to Brightlife. Please keep this sheet for your information and future reference.

Thank you.