**Participant Information Sheet**

**Research Project Title:** The relationship between prospective memory and quality of life in autistic versus non-autistic participants

**1. Background aims of project:** This study aims to explore the relation between prospective memory ability, mental health, and quality of life in a group of autistic and non-autistic individuals. Prospective memory refers to the ability to remember to do something in the future, either at a certain time or in a certain situation (for example, remembering to attend a meeting at 3 o’clock). The study is interested in whether difficulties in prospective memory are associated with people’s overall quality of life, mental health, and stress, and whether there is a difference between this relationship in autistic and non-autistic people. The relation between prospective memory and quality of life is currently not well studies, especially in autism research.

**2. Why have I been invited to take part?** You have been invited to take part in this study, as you are aged between 16-85 and English is your first language. Some participants invited to take part in this study will have a formal diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition (and some will not).

**3. Do I have to take part?**No. You do not have to take part. If you do decide to take part, you can withdraw your participation at any time without needing to explain and without penalty, by advising the researcher of this decision. You can also withdraw your data from the study (even after completing it), within 1 month after data collection. To withdraw your data email catherine.grainger@stir.ac.uk with this number: [participant code], that can be used to identify your data. You will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form to confirm you are happy to participate in the study.

**4. What will happen if I take part?** If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete several questionnaires to assess your quality of life. These questionnaires will rate levels of depression, general anxiety, social anxiety, and stress. You will also fill out a prospective memory questionnaire and an autism traits questionnaire.

**5. Are there any potential risks in taking part?**Some of the questions in the surveys will ask about your personal experiences and mental health. If you feel worried at any time during the study, please speak to the researcher. We can suggest a few options for well-being support. Please note, you can also stop participation at any time if you feel uncomfortable or skip any questions that you do not wish to answer.

**6. Are there any benefits in taking part?**You will be reimbursed with a £5 Giftpay voucher, which you can spend in a number of establishments: <https://www.giftpay.co.uk/egift/infowhere.aspx?gift=TG3HS6K6DC&value=9000>

**7. Legal basis for processing personal data** On the consent form you have the option to provide personal contact details. This data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

**8. What happens to the data I provide?** The research data will be stored anonymously on OneDrive and kept anonymous using a specific participant code. Any personal contact information that you provide will be stored separately from your study data and will not associated with your unique participant code. Only the research team will have access to your personal contact details (if provided) and your research data. Your research data will be kept for 2 years on OneDrive and then will be lodged in DataSTORRE. If you have provided your contact details, to be contacted by STAR about participating in future studies, you will be contacted on an annual basis to see whether you would like us to remove your contact details from our mailing list, and permanently delete them.

**9. Will the research be published?** We hope to publish the research may in an academic journal. Please note, you will not be identifiable in any research report or publication. The University of Stirling is committed to making the outputs of research publicly accessible and supports this commitment through our online open access repository STORRE. This research will be publicly disseminated through our open access repository.

**10. Who has reviewed this research project?**The ethical approaches of this project have been approved via The University of Stirling General University Ethics Panel. You have the right to request to see a copy of the information we hold about you and to request corrections or deletions of the information that is no longer required. You have the right to withdraw from this project at any time without giving reasons and without consequences to you. You also have the right to object to us processing relevant personal data, however, please note that once the data are being analysed and/or results published it may not be possible to remove your data from the study.

**11. Who do I contact if I have concerns about this study or I wish to complain?** In the future, if you would like to discuss the research in more detail, please email Dr Catherine Grainger at catherine.grainger@stir.ac.uk. You have the right to lodge a complaint against the University regarding data protection issues with the Information Commissioner’s Office (https://ico.org.uk/concerns/). The University’s Data Protection Officer is Joanna Morrow, Deputy Secretary. If you have any questions relating to data protection these can be addressed to data.protection@stir.ac.uk in the first instance.

Thank you for considering taking part in this research. This research project is funded by the Academy of Medical Sciences Research Award.