

Sample Social Observation Event *

Preparation: Researcher has spoken with care home manager/senior staff member, and they have discussed where, and with which residents it may be appropriate for social observation to take place.

Location: Care Home Communal Area for Example lounge, dining area, foyer

Duration: 10 minutes

Checking for Assent/Consent:

Researcher introduces themselves to the resident, asks if it would be ok if she sits beside them as she is interested in how their day is.

Staff present aware of the purpose of the observation- researcher checks for confirmation of consent from staff member for observation of their interaction.

Nature of Observation (Example 1):

Researcher observes interactions between resident and staff member, noticing for points at which the resident appears engaged and the elements that led up to that engagement.

Researcher will also observe for the different methods and approaches the staff member uses in order to connect with the resident.

Nature of Observation (Example 2):

Researcher asks the resident if it would be alright to walk alongside them as they walk up and down corridor.

Researcher will observe for times in which resident initiated interactions, and how the resident responded when others (known or unknown) initiated interactions with them.

* The approach to what the researcher will focus on during the observation event will be informed by the Quality Interaction Schedule (Healthcare Improvement Scotland, 2012) and Caring Conversations Framework (Dewar, 2011).