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Interview 1

These are a guide – discussion will be flexible and participant led.

So I can get an idea of who is who in your family and some of the important things that have happened in your family life, I will begin by asking you to tell me the story of your family so far, what it is like at the moment and how you see it in the future.

(Probes to be used)

1) The past

- What stands out for you as important things /milestones that have helped to make your family how it is today?
- What has the idea of being a family meant to you over the years?
- Who have been important people in your family over these years?

2) The present

- What is important about your family life today? E.g. what events are happening?
- What does being a family mean to you at the moment? Has this changed at all from how you used to think about being a family or having a family life?
- Can you tell me about the part that your family/ being in a family plays in your everyday life?
- Who would you say is 'in' your family?

3) The future

- Is there anything you would like to tell me about your thoughts about your family/ family life for the future?

N.B. Interviews 2, 3 etc. will follow the same format.

Interview

The order in which topics are discussed will be flexible and participant led. The interviewer will use the key questions (informed by the project's main research questions) to guide the session, and encourage the participant/s to talk about their lives in response to these broad questions and in relation to the various topic areas listed. Additional areas brought up by participants will also be explored.

Key questions: *(Probe with regard to the topic areas which follow).*

Could you describe a typical, ordinary day in your/ your family's life?

What's changed about family life since you realised you/ your relative had a life threatening-illness?

What are your current, immediate concerns/ considerations about what's going on in your everyday life at this moment? Do you think these are the same as what's going on for other people in your family?

Have you/ your family changed anything in particular to keep family life going in some way since you/ your relative developed a life-threatening illness?

What do you think about your life at the minute?

Topics:

Contact/ relationships

- When you are around other members of your family, what is it that you tend to do together?
- Who do you see, when, and what for?
- Are certain times/ occasions for family things? What are these?
- How would you describe relationships in your family at the moment?
- If you had to say who has what role in your family, or describe the kind of person people are, what would you say? Have these people always seemed like this, or have things changed since you/ your relative became ill?

Routines (*encourage participant to provide details about...*)

- Cooking
- Driving/ getting about
- Shopping
- Housework
- Personal care, inc. medicines, treatments.
- Appointments
- Finances
- Bedtimes
- Paid work or voluntary commitments
- Who does what? When? Why?

Flow of Information

- Who talks to whom?
- What kind of talk?
- What about?
- Nostalgia - stories, 'in' jokes - what are these and when does such collective reminiscing happen?
- Does your family talk about the illness? If so, who talks to whom? What do they say? When does it tend to get talked about?

Home

- Have you changed anything in your home since you/ your relative developed a life-threatening illness - changed any rooms around? Moved items? Had features installed?
- Emotional landscape - how do you feel about your home?
- What is important about your home to you and members of your family? Is it central to your idea of being a family and doing everyday family things? (*If yes*)

Could you talk to me about why you think this, and about what some of these family things are that happen in the home?

The hospice

- Does the hospice have anything to do with your family life? If so how?

Leisure/ social time

- Holidays
- Clubs
- Going out to places
- Socialising