Supplementary material 1: Topic Guide

Introduction

- Go through informed consent form, ensure student is aware the study focuses on schizophrenia and are happy to continue
- Obtain written consent
- Reiterate that they do not have to answer questions they don’t feel comfortable with and can stop the interview at any time
- Outline length of interview
- Check happy to begin - reiterate exploring opinion/ understanding so no wrong answer

Understanding of term schizophrenia

- What do you understand by the term mental illness?
  - Probe: how different to physical illnesses?
- Have you heard the word schizophrenia at all recently?
  - Probe: have you seen any recent articles in the news?
  - Probe: have you seen it mentioned in any TV programmes or films?
- Can you tell me what you understand by the term ‘schizophrenia?’
  - Probe: how different to other mental illnesses?

Mental health literacy for schizophrenia

- Are you aware of any of the symptoms of schizophrenia?
  - Probe: what characteristics may you expect in an individual with schizophrenia
- Are you aware of any of the causes of schizophrenia?
  - Probe: genetic/ personality characteristics/ social circumstances/ supernatural
- Are you aware of any treatments for schizophrenia?
  - Probe: role of medication/ therapy/ religion/ social support/ units
- Do you believe a person with schizophrenia is able to recover?
  - Probe: believe get better or worse?
  - Probe: believe can make a full recovery?
- If you suspected you, or a friend of yours, had schizophrenia who would you go to for help?
  - Probe: role of society/ medical intervention/ friends and family
- If you suspected you had schizophrenia would you be happy to seek help?

Conclusion

- If you had to use 3 words to describe schizophrenia which words would you use?
- Is there anything else you would like to add about schizophrenia, your own experiences or mental health in general?
- Thank for participation
- Give them the £15 Amazon voucher