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STUDY**

Timeline Mapping and Interview Topic Guide

ADVANCE - INVEST Study - Injured Veterans' Experiences of Transition

Email: advance-invest@kcl.ac.uk; Tel: 0207 848 5351 or 07521043464

Dear [INSERT Name],

Thank you so much for agreeing to take part in an interview for the ADVANCE-INVEST Study.

Before your interview

There are a couple of things we invite you to do before your interview to help it go smoothly. Firstly, we would be grateful if you could give us an idea of the key events that have happened in your life since leaving the military using a "timeline map". Secondly, we would be grateful if you could reflect upon the topics we will ask you about in your interview.

Timeline map

Creating a timeline map is a way of remembering the important events that have happened in your life using a drawing or list. The timeline map is there to help you remember what happened and when, before the interview. It will also help the interviewer tailor the interview to your personal circumstances.

To make your timeline map, you can use a piece of blank paper and pens or a digital document to remember key dates from the time you left the military to the present day – the dates can be approximate, they don't need to be exact. There are no strict rules about how a timeline map should look but there are a couple of examples on the following pages and some digital templates have also been provided for you to use if you'd like to.

It would be helpful if you could include some key dates, such as:

- when you left the military;
- house moves;
- dates for jobs you have had since leaving the military;
- any other important events that have happened since.

We realise that there will be details of your life and career which occurred before leaving the military which are important. Unfortunately, we won't be able to go into the depth of these during your interview but if there is anything you think is essential for understanding your journey, please do add these too.

Once you have finished your timeline map, please send it to us (using the prepaid envelope provided, including your signed Informed Consent Form). If it is handwritten, please take a photograph of it, making sure that all text is legible. Then please send the photo or Word document to us at: advance-invest@kcl.ac.uk – please keep the original copy for reference during our interview.

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During your interview

We are going to ask you about different experiences you've had since leaving the military. These will include:

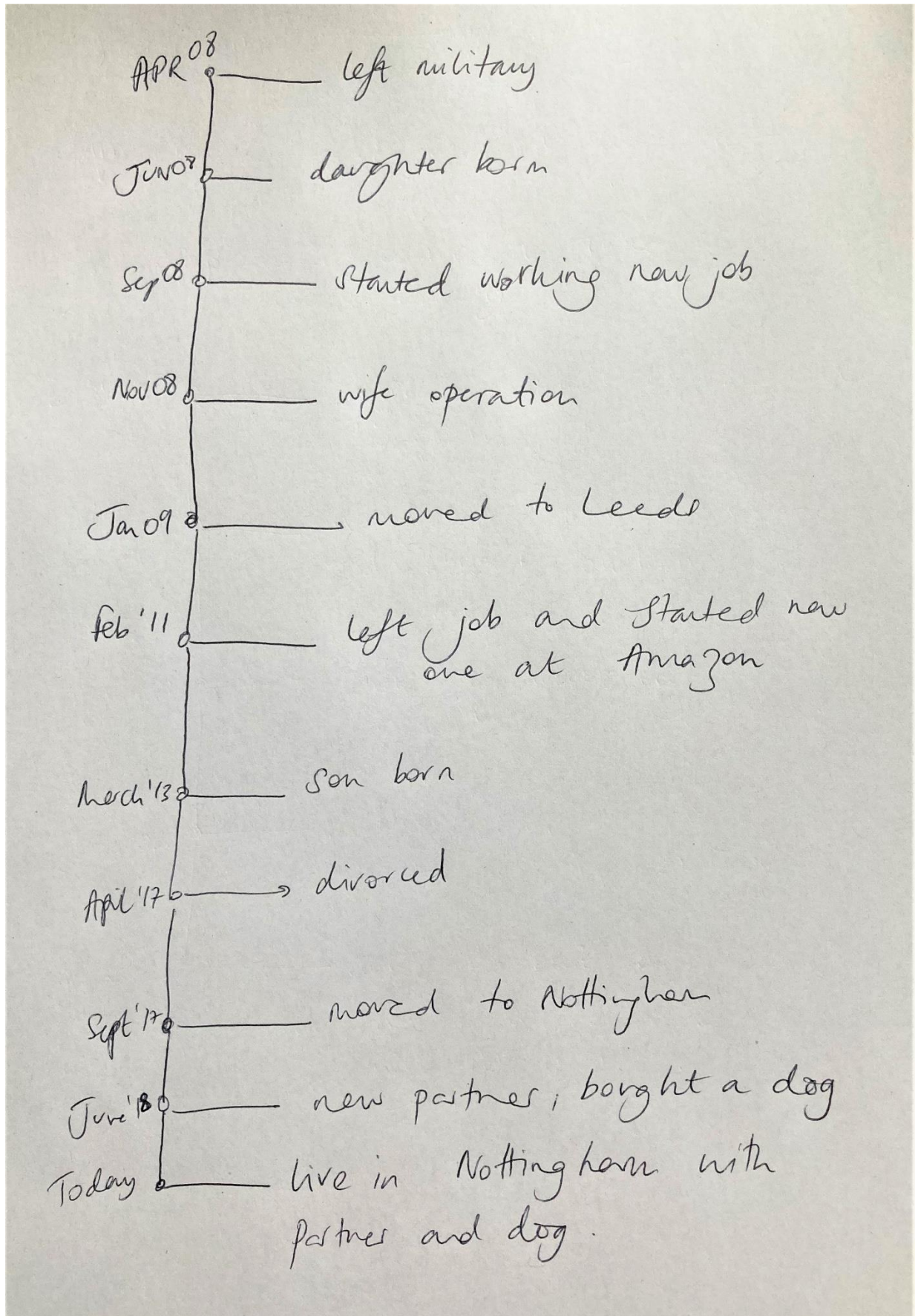
- the process of leaving the military and any challenges you've faced since;
- the support you may have received to help you during this time;
- experiences you've had with civilian employment;
- the impact leaving the military has had on your sense of self and relationships;
- your hopes and plans for the future;
- and any recommendations you would like to make to help others in similar situations.

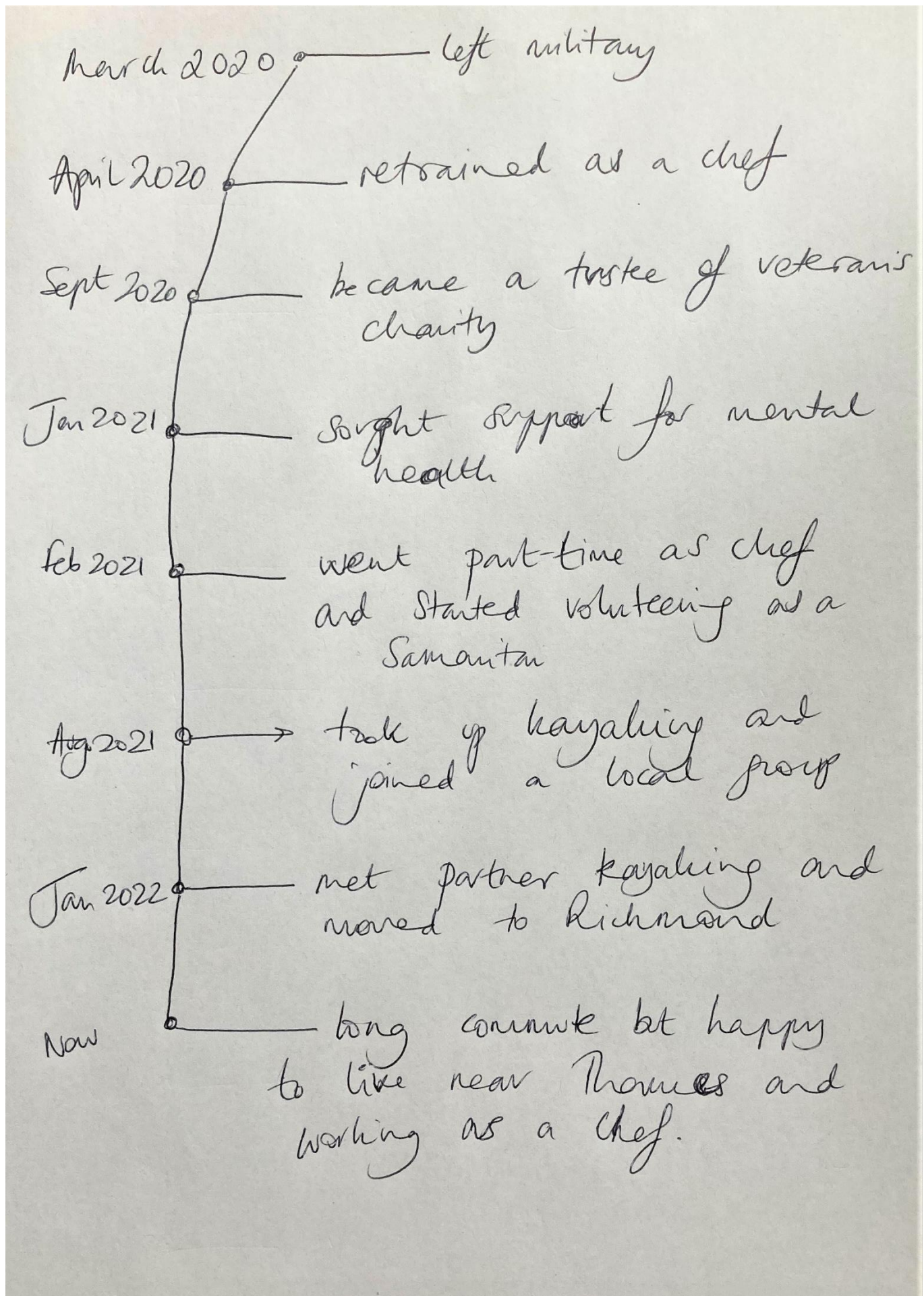
We are grateful for your time and look forward to hearing your reflections on these topics when we meet for your interview online. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or concerns about the study, please contact us on advance-invest@kcl.ac.uk or call/text us on 07521043464.

With all our best wishes,

The ADVANCE-INVEST Study Team

Examples of hand-drawn timeline maps





Timeline map template

