**Additional File 2: Topic Guide**

**Engaging with academy and free schools to enable evidence-based health promotion in schools**

Note: This topic guide is indicative

**Introduction:**

* Thank you for participating
* Introduce self and NIHR SPHR
* Introduce the study
* Talk through key points:
* length of interview
* interview like a discussion, but will cover key topics
* no right or wrong answers
* participation is voluntary, rights to withdraw
* recording interview (concentrate on what you are saying, accuracy)
* Confidentiality and anonymity, how findings will be reported
* Questions?
* Happy to proceed? Sign consent form

**START RECORDING**

**Attitudes and beliefs towards health promotion in schools**

* Do you think that there is a link between health and learning (education attainment)?
  + What is the nature of the association?
* Which health domain is of most interest to you and why?
* How well informed do you feel about the evidence of what works in schools to improve health and wellbeing?
  + Students
  + staff
* What sources of information / evidence do you have about what works in schools to improve health and wellbeing?
  + Where does this information come from?
  + How good is it?
  + What information/evidence would you find useful?

**Health promotion initiatives/programmes in schools**

* Where does health fit in the strategy of the Trust / individual schools?
  + Does any one individual or committee lead on health?
    - If yes, who, and role
* What is the extent to which student and staff health and wellbeing features in strategic planning?
  + How does the academy chain / alliance affect decisions at the individual school level
* Who makes these decisions
  + Trust board, local governing board, head teachers, other?
  + How are decisions taken at the trust level communicated to schools
  + How are they implemented?
* Thinking about the differences between maintained and Academy schools, what do you think has been the main difference to your role since leaving the local authority?
  + And what difference has leaving the LA made to health promotion?
* To what extent is health taken into account in wider decision-making, for example changes to school buildings/new buildings;
* Thinking about improvements in student and staff wellbeing, how far would you be prepared to go in making changes to
  + the curriculum,
  + the school environment,
  + the school ethos
  + the relationship between staff and pupils, and
  + the way schools interact with parents and the local community?
* Does the school participate in any healthy schools programmes or use the healthy schools audit?
* What budgets do you have (how much is currently spent on health promotion)?
  + If MAT, how are these budgets allocated to individual schools?
  + What is the source of these budgets?
  + Do they have any rules around expenditure and how do you navigate those rules?
    - Pupil premium
    - Apprenticeship levy
    - Sports premium
* Has the Trust/school recently undertaken any activity or intervention in
  + Physical activity
  + Nutrition
  + Risk behaviours including drugs and alcohol
  + Sexual health
  + emotional wellbeing and mental health
  + violence/bullying
* Are there any pupil-led initiatives?
* Who currently delivers the programs (training school staff versus external providers)?
  + What are the pros and cons of each approach?
  + What would you prefer?
* Does health and wellbeing feature in teacher training/inset days? How is the agenda for these decided?

**Health improvement research in schools**

* Do you collect data on health?
  + For primary schools, do they use data to track 30:30?
* If yes, what is collected?
* What is the quality of data?
* Would you share anonymised data with researchers?
* When in the school day/week best for data collection?
* Which evaluation frameworks would be suitable/practical?

**Engaging with public health practitioners or academics**

* Do you already work with public health practitioners or academics to improve health and wellbeing?
* If so, describe
* What works well, what doesn’t
  + How could things work better?
  + Would the school / collaboration / Trust be interested in being part of a school research network?
  + What would influence decision making?
* If not, would you be interested in joining forces with public health academics and practitioners to improve the health and wellbeing of your staff and students?
* What mechanisms could be put in place to facilitate this?
* How do we frame the working relationship (how can we help you?)

**Closing**

* Thank you
* Any questions?
* Copy of interview transcript?
* Summary of results from the study?