Help us find out more about diseases

We are a group of special doctors and scientists who have a special interest in learning more about the way our body works. We work in the Children’s Hospital and the University.

We would like to tell you about how you could help these scientists and doctors.

Please read this booklet or ask the person who looks after you to read it with you. It will help you to understand what we are doing and to decide if you would like to join in and help us.
Why me?
We are asking you if you would like to help us because at the moment you are well. We might be asking you because you have a brother or a sister who has been poorly.

What is it all about?
A Biobank is a place where we can store samples from people with different illnesses. ‘Samples’ are any bits from you such as blood, spit and wee.

These samples can help doctors and scientists find out more about our bodies and what happens when they go wrong. Lots of different doctors and scientists can use the samples so as they can all work together to learn about making people better.

With your help, we can try to find out better ways to help people when they are poorly,
What we might ask you for?

Some spit from your mouth. We can get this by asking you to suck on a little sponge or spit in a pot.

Some wee. We will ask you to pee in a pot. (We don’t need to watch but your mum or dad could help if it’s tricky.)

Some snot. We will ask to tickle the inside of your nose with a thin stick a bit like a cotton bud. This is called a swab.

An extra small bit of your blood. We will get this with a really small needle in your vein. We will use special numbing cream to stop this hurting, although it might still sting a bit.
Sometimes, we like to be able to look at differences in the stuff you give us on different days to see if there are any changes as you get older, for example.

You will be able to say whether you want to give us stuff on several different days, just once, or not at all.

**What will you do with my samples?**

If you say yes, we will keep your 'samples' for the “finding out” work we are doing. We have some clever scientists who work with us and they use the stuff you have given us to try to find out about different illnesses. Your samples might be used straight away, or they could be kept in a big freezer and be used later.
What are the good things about helping us? 😊

The things we find out may help us to make other children better in the future or to stop other children getting ill.

Are there any bad things? 😢

There aren’t any really bad things.

If you are saying “yes” to a swab in your nose then this tickles a bit (feels like a tickle before a sneeze!). If you say “yes” to a blood test, then we will offer you the ‘magic cream’ that takes some of the pain away.

You don’t have to say “yes” if you don’t want to.

What else do you want to know about me? 🤔

We want to keep your name and how old you are. We want to know if you’ve ever been really poorly, and if you had your jabs when you were a baby.
No, you don’t have to. If you don’t say “yes”, you don’t need to say why and nobody will be upset or disappointed. If your mum or dad, or the person who looks after you does not want you to take part, that is OK too.

**What do I do next?**

If you have any worries or questions, you can talk to one of the doctors or nurses if you like. You can ask your mum or dad, or the person who looks after you about it as well. Then, along with them, you can decide if you want to say “yes” and let us use your stuff to do our “finding out” work or not.

Thank you for reading this booklet.