Week 3 Research Vignettes

**Ethics in research: Read through the paragraph and discuss any potential ethical issues. How might you address them?**

1. Rima is taking part in research about domestic violence and has agreed to speak to a researcher in person about her experiences in more detail. To arrange the meeting, the researcher calls Rima on her landline, there is no answer so she leaves a message on the answer phone. Rima does not return her call so the researcher tries again several more times at different times of the day in case she is at work. The researcher wonders if she might have got the phone number wrong, so she sends an e-mail instead, reminding Rima that she has agreed to take part and how important the research is to help others who have experienced the same situation.
2. Tomas is just about to start a very important study looking at how effective a new service for homeless people is in reducing alcohol dependency. He wants to make sure that there is a good response rate to his study because he thinks it is unfair that there is not much research looking at such issues, perhaps, he thinks, because there is not much ‘sympathy’ for homeless people who are addicted to alcohol. Tomas knows that some groups, such as homeless people, are under-represented in research and looks up ways to increase participation. He reads that offering financial reimbursements is one approach to increasing uptake among those that face barriers to taking part in research and decides to offer his homeless participants £15 for completing a survey.
3. Zara is a midwife and currently studying for a Master’s degree. For her research project, she is looking at whether pregnant women supported by midwives with training in ‘mental health first aid’, have better well-being than pregnant women supported by midwives without this training. As part of her research she is interviewing a Bangladeshi woman who needs an interpreter, so she has booked a professional interpreter with experience of supporting similar research. Unfortunately Zara gets a phone-call ten minutes before the interview saying that the interpreter has had to cancel. Luckily, however, the pregnant woman’s older daughter agreed to do the interpreting instead and goes on to translate the questions and answers.