**Supplementary Table 1. The European Community Respiratory Health Survey phase II screening questionnaire in English**

Q1. Recent wheeze: ‘Have you had wheezing or whistling in your chest at any time in the last 12 months?’
   If ‘no’, go to question Q2, if ‘yes’:
   Q1.1. Recent wheeze with breathlessness: ‘Have you been at all breathless when the wheezing noise was present?’
   Q1.2. Recent wheeze without a cold: ‘Have you had this wheezing or whistling when you did not have a cold?’
Q2. Waking with tightness in the chest: ‘Have you woken up with a feeling of tightness in your chest at any time in the last 12 months?’
Q3. Waking with an attack of shortness of breath: ‘Have you been woken by an attack of shortness of breath at any time in the last 12 months?’
Q4. Waking with cough: ‘Have you been woken by an attack of coughing at any time in the last 12 months?’
Q5. Ever asthma: ‘Have you ever had asthma?’
   If ‘no’, go to question Q6, if ‘yes’:
   Q5.1. Ever asthma confirmed by a doctor: ‘Was this confirmed by a doctor?’
   Q5.2. Onset age: ‘How old were you when you had your first attack of asthma?’
   Q5.3. Recent attack age: ‘How old were you when you had your most recent attack of asthma?’
   Q5.4. Recent asthma attack: ‘Have you had an attack of asthma in the last 12 months?’
Q6. Current asthma medication: ‘Are you currently taking any medicines (including inhalers, aerosols or tablets) for asthma?’
7. Do you have any nasal allergies including hay fever?