

Family and care professional participant information sheet

Project title:

What do people with learning disabilities think about having children in the future?

Funding:

This PhD research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and is being conducted within the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology at the University of Newcastle. It is supervised by Prof. Janice McLaughlin and Dr Sarah Winkler-Reid (who can be contacted at the addresses below).

Details of the project:

This PhD research focuses on what young people with learning disabilities think about parenting and having children in the future. The project will create a space for young people with learning disabilities, care support professionals and family members to share their perspectives.

Purpose and aims of the research:

This research aims to explore what young people with learning disabilities think about the possible opportunities and barriers towards parenthood, and to further understand how family and care support networks can influence the views of young people. It aims to explore how young people with learning disabilities could be supported to reflect on parenthood and make active and informed choices in the future.

Inclusion criteria:

I will be speaking directly with young people with learning disabilities, I also want to speak with care professionals and family members. Care professionals and family members must be aged 18 and over and should have a close relationship with someone with a learning disability.

What is involved:

Participants will be interviewed once for approximately 60 minutes. Interviews will take place by phone or video call (e.g. Skype, Zoom etc.), participants can choose which platform works best for them. Interviews will be audio recorded and only the researcher will listen to them. The recordings will then be typed up for thematic analysis; names and any other identifiable information will be changed to respect confidentiality and anonymity.

Discussions about learning disability and parenting opportunities can be sensitive and emotive topics. Participants should only disclose information they are comfortable sharing.

Withdrawing from the research:

Participants can choose to withdraw from the research at any time. Participants do not need to explain their decision to withdraw, and all existing data collected from them will be destroyed.

How the information will be used:

The audio recordings from the interview will be transcribed anonymously onto Word and stored securely on the Newcastle University online secure network. The research will follow Newcastle University Data Protection Policy and GDPR. The information will be used to produce a PhD thesis for examination. The information gathered may also be used to write articles for academic and professional journals and conferences.

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Please contact Katrina if you have any questions about the research. The supervisors should be contacted if you have any concerns about the project or the researcher.

Thank you for your interest in taking part.