

Participant Information Sheet



University of the
West of England

ID no.

Placing a learning disabled child in residential care: parents' decision making processes: a grounded theory exploration.

Please take the time to read the following information carefully; if there is anything that is not clear or that you would like more information about then please do ask.

What is the purpose of the research?

The aim of this study is to interview parents and guardians of children who are in residential care to explore the decision making processes which led to placing their child in residential care. By exploring parents / guardians views and decision making experiences, I hope to promote psychological understanding of this process to improve the support offered by practitioners such as nurses, GP, psychologists, social workers, care staff. By identifying the processes leading up to this decision, the research aims to enable better support structures for parents / guardians This would potentially reduce stress and anxiety, and potentially speed up referrals for residential care or home care. Psychological support could assist parents through this process prior to, during and following a child moving into a residential setting.

Who is carrying out the research?

My name is Becky Andrews and I am a trainee counselling psychologist in my 5th and final year of training; I am undertaking this research as a part of my Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology. My project is being supervised by Andrea Halewood, a Senior Lecturer in Counselling Psychology at UWE.

I have worked with adults, children and families within the field of learning disabilities since 2004 and from October 2012, will be working within a Children and Families Intensive Support Team.

Why have you been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because you a parent / guardian of child who is currently living in a residential setting or seeking residential care. I am interested in hearing about your experiences in this area.

What will happen if you decide to take part?

If you decide to take part in the study you will be asked to confirm that you have read this information sheet and to sign a consent form. You will then be interviewed at a time that is suitable for you; either at the organisation where your child lives or the University of the West of England. We can agree on a different location if this is necessary. The interview will last approx. 1 hour and our discussions will be recorded using a Dictaphone voice recorder. I will ask you 5 broad questions which I will give you prior to our meeting. I can meet with individuals or couples.

What happens if you decide at any point that you do not want to carry on with the study?

You may withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason and any data collected from you will be destroyed.

What are the benefits/risks of taking part?

Although there are no immediate benefits for you in taking part, you may find the opportunity to talk about and reflect on your experiences to be helpful. Additionally, the results of this study results have the potential to contribute to our understanding of the issues involved in placing a child into residential care, which is currently an under researched area.

However, it is possible that talking about your experiences may evoke some distress as you will be recalling material which you may have found difficult at the time. If this is the case you can stop the interview at any time without giving a reason. I will also provide you with the contact details of sources of support should you require them.

Will my participation in the study be kept confidential?

All information collected for the study will remain confidential; data stored on paper will be held in locked filing cabinets and data stored on my computer will be password protected. All potentially identifying information will be removed at the point of transcription at this point only anonymised data will be shared with study supervisors or written up. You can see a copy of this transcript if you would like.

What happens at the end of the research study?

Interview data will be analysed and the findings will be written-up and submitted as part of my Doctoral research. Papers for publication in academic journals may also be written based upon the findings in which case all identifying features will be removed in order to maintain anonymity.

What participants need to do if they wish to take part:

If you do wish to take part you can contact me on e-mail:

Rebecca3.Andrews@live.uwe.ac.uk. or on my designated mobile (I can call you back) 07407430541. You can also visit my website www.learningdisabilityresearch.co.uk

What if there is a problem?

If you have concerns about any aspect of the study you can contact me by e-mail:

Rebecca3.Andrews@live.uwe.ac.uk or ring my mobile designated phone number 07407430541 or write to me on the address below.

You can also contact my supervisor Mrs Andrea Halewood:

Tel: 0117 32 83889 Email: Andrea.Halewood@uwe.ac.uk or

Contact Address:

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