

Project Information for Girls in Care (aged 16 – 17)

Hello, our names are Claire, Julie, Jo and Katie, and we are a team of researchers working on a study led by Lancaster University. We want to invite you to take part in our study about girls in care. Please read this sheet to find out more.

What is the study about?

Our study will look at how being in care might affect your behaviour. We are also interested in what adults do to help you behave well, and what they do if you break the rules.

We are really interested in listening to the views of girls in care, and your suggestions for change. We will take your opinions very seriously, and think about how these might help to make the care system even better for children in foster and children's homes in the future.

Why have I been invited?

We have invited you because you have been in care and also been involved with a youth offending team. We are really interested in your views on how far these systems meet the needs of girls, and if there are improvements that could be made to help other girls in the future.

What will I be asked to do if I take part?

If you decided to take part, it would involve taking part in either an online, telephone or email interview. We would prefer you to do an online or telephone interview but email interviews are also available as an option where an audio interview is not possible. An online/telephone interview would take up to one hour. An email interview would involve answering a list of questions sent to you via email. You would have a week to respond to the email.

If you choose to take part in an online or telephone interview, we will ask your permission to record the interview. The interview will include questions on your experience of being in care and involved with the youth justice system. But you won't have to answer anything that you don't want to.

Do I have to take part?

No. It's completely your choice as to whether or not you take part. Your participation is voluntary. And whatever you decide, this will not impact on your care placement or youth justice order in any way.

However, as a thank-you for giving up your time, we would like to leave a £25 gift voucher for you with your carer or social worker.

What if I change my mind?

You can change your mind about taking part at any time during the interview. If you want to stop, just let us know, and we will delete your interview. You won't be in any trouble if you do this so don't worry. You can also ask for your interview to be deleted up to 2 weeks after taking part in the study by contacting us.

Will my data be identifiable?

No, we will keep all personal information about you private (for example, your name, the name of your children's home and any other information that could identify you). Only the research team will have

access to your data, and we will not share it with others or discuss any details with other children or adults in your care home. We will remove any personal information from the written record of your interview.

How will we keep and use the information you have shared and what will happen to the results of the research study?

We will use the information you have shared only for research. This could include for articles, reports, blog posts and presentations. When writing up our project findings, we would like to use some of the views and ideas you shared. But your name will not be used to protect you from other people identifying who you are.

The place where you live will be referred to as a region where you live, and not an exact place, for example, the North or Midlands. Only generalised themes will be discussed in blog posts and on social media in order to protect individuals from being identified.

We will keep a transcription of your interview under a Pseudonym/fake name and your personal details in a password protected space on a computer, so that only researchers can access it. We will keep these files for up to 10 years and destroy audio recording within a year of our interview.

The only exception is that if anything you say in the interview suggests that you or somebody else might be at risk of harm, we will have to share this information with your carers or social worker.

What if I have a question or concern?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us by email in the first instance, or ask your carers or social worker to get in touch. We'd be happy to answer your questions!

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Thanks for considering taking part in our project.