

Participant information sheet for Care-Experienced Young Women (aged 18 to 25)

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 would like to invite you to take part in a study about 'Disrupting the Routes between Care and Custody'. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding if you wish to take part.

What is the study about?

This study aims to examine how to disrupt the connection between experiences of the state child care system (e.g. foster and residential care) and involvement in the youth justice system. The project will focus on the experiences of girls and women who have been in care, and their views and recommendations for change.

Why have I been invited?

We have approached you because you have had some involvement in the care and /or youth justice system. We are interested in your views on how far these systems meet the needs of girls and women, and whether there are improvements that could be made to help future generations of girls and women. We would be very grateful if you agree to take part in this study.

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

If you decided to take part, it would involve participating 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 the care system and the youth justice system. But you will not have to answer anything that you don't want to.

What are the possible benefits from taking part?

The experiences of those with first-hand experience of the care and criminal justice systems are incredibly valuable in highlighting how these systems work in practice, and how they might be improved in the future. Taking part in this study will allow you to share your experiences and contribute to our understanding of the care-crime connection.

There will be neither advantage nor disadvantage to individuals if they decide to participate or not participate in this research. However, as a thank-you for giving up your time, we would like to leave a £25 gift voucher with you.

Do I have to take part?

No. It's completely up to you to decide whether or not you take part. Your participation is voluntary.

What if I change my mind?

If you change your mind, you are free to withdraw at any time during your interview. If you want to withdraw, please let us know, and we will destroy your interview data. This will not compromise you in any way. You can also withdraw up to 2 weeks after taking part in the study by contacting us directly using the information below or through your personal advisor.

Will my data be identifiable?

After the interview, only the research team will have access to the ideas you share with me. The only other person who will have access to this is a professional transcriber who will listen to the recordings and produce a written record of what you have said. The transcriber will sign a confidentiality agreement. We will keep all personal information about you (e.g. your name, your location, and any other information that could identify you) confidential, that is we will not share it with others. We will remove any personal information from the written record of your contribution.

How will we 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 purposes. This could include for journal articles and reports, as well as blog posts. We may also present the results of our study at academic conferences, practitioner events and to policy makers. When writing up this study's findings, we would like to reproduce some of the views and ideas you shared. We will only use anonymised quotes (e.g. from the interview with you), so that although we will use your exact words, you cannot be identified in our publications. The only exception to the above is that if anything you say in the interview suggests that you or somebody else might be at risk of harm, we will be obliged to share this information with a colleague.

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 the audio recording within a year of our interview. 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.

How my data will be stored

Your data will be stored in encrypted files (that is no-one other than the research team will be able to access them) and on password-protected computers. We will store hard copies of any data securely in locked cabinets in our offices. We will keep data that can identify you separately from non-personal information (e.g. your views on a specific topic). In accordance with University guidelines, we will keep the data securely for a minimum of ten years.

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 personal advisor to get in touch. We'd be happy to answer your questions.

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For more information about how Lancaster University uses personal data for research purposes and your data rights please visit our webpage: www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/data-protection

Sources of support

We appreciate that some of the questions asked are sensitive and the topics may be potentially distressing for some. With this in mind, please see the separate sheet for a list of sources of support that participants can contact if they wish to.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Lancaster Management School's Research Ethics Committee.

Thank you for considering your participation in this project.