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*Wellbeing in Schools & Colleges
Llesiant mewn Ysgolion a Cholegau*

The WiSC Study: Wellbeing in Schools and Colleges

Information Sheet for Consultation with Education, Social Care & Health Practitioners

You have been invited to take part in an online consultation event, as part of a research study about the mental health and wellbeing of care-experienced children and young people. This information sheet explains more about the study and the consultation event. The consultation event is on Tuesday 7th February from 9 until 10.30.

1. What is the purpose of this research study?

There has been limited research on how schools, colleges, social work teams and Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) teams can best work together to support the mental health and wellbeing of care-experienced children and young people, including those in foster care, residential care, with a Special Guardianship Order, and adopted.

The study aims to understand how children and young people, parents and carers and those working in education, social care and health experience delivering and receiving mental health and wellbeing provision for care-experienced children and young people (aged 11-25) in secondary schools and FE colleges in Wales.

Findings from the study will be used to make recommendations to policy-makers and practitioners in education, social care and health on how to improve mental health and wellbeing provision for care-experienced children and young people in secondary schools and FE colleges.

2. Why have I been invited to take part in the consultation?

It is important that we speak to a wide range of people who deliver or receive mental health and wellbeing support in schools and colleges. This includes care-experienced children and young people themselves, parents and carers, school and college staff and those involved in delivering mental health and wellbeing support.

You have been invited to take part in this consultation as we are interested in speaking to **practitioners working in social care, education and health**, and hearing their experiences and opinions of school- and college-based mental health and wellbeing provision for care-experienced children and young people in Wales.

3. What will taking part involve?

We would like to hold discussions with you and other education, social care and health practitioners at **two** points in the study.

The **first consultation**, at the start of the study, will gather your thoughts on:

- mental health and wellbeing support needs for care-experienced students in schools and colleges;
- current school and college based support for care-experienced students;
- difficulties or perceived gaps in mental health support systems and services.

The consultation will be an online group discussion with other practitioners delivered through the medium of English. It will be held remotely via a video call using Microsoft Teams, which can be accessed on computers or smartphones. The discussion will be led by a member of the team from Cardiff University. The discussion will last approximately one and a half hours, and with participants' permission, will be audio recorded. The audio recording will allow the team at Cardiff University to write an accurate account of the discussion and will be deleted as soon this is done. You can take part in the consultation from a location of your choosing (e.g. your home or workplace), but we ask that you are able to talk in a private space without interruption or being overheard.

The **second consultation**, at the end of the study, will gather your reflections on the findings and draft recommendations (this is likely to be in January 2024 and will also be held online).

The consultations will be co-hosted by ExChange Wales.

4. Do I have to take part?

No. Taking part in the consultation is entirely your decision. If you change your mind about taking part before or during the consultation, you can withdraw and you do not need to explain your reasons. However, if you wish to withdraw part-way through or after the

consultation we will not be able to remove your data because it may not be possible to distinguish your voice on the audio-recording and the consultation notes will be anonymised. If you take part in the consultation, you can decline to answer any question during the discussion.

If you take part in the first consultation, you do not have to take part in the second, although we will contact you with an invitation.

5. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The consultations are an important part of the study. The first will help identify key issues to be explored with schools, colleges, children and young people, parents and carers, and practitioners in the rest of the study. The second will help refine the study recommendations to policy-makers and practitioners. Study findings will also have a longer-term impact in improving the health and education outcomes for care experienced children and young people.

6. Will my taking part in this research study be kept confidential?

All information collected from (or about) you during the research study will be kept confidential and any personal information you provide will be managed in accordance with data protection legislation. Please see 'What will happen to my Personal Data?' (below) for further information.

7. What will happen to my Personal Data?

Cardiff University is the Data Controller for this research study and is committed to respecting and protecting your personal data in accordance with your expectations and Data Protection legislation. Further information about Data Protection, including:

- your rights
- the legal basis under which Cardiff University processes your personal data for research
- Cardiff University's Data Protection Policy
- how to contact the Cardiff University Data Protection Officer
- how to contact the Information Commissioner's Office may be found at www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/policies-and-procedures/data-protection

Any personal information held about you (e.g., your name and contact email address) will be securely stored for the duration of the study, so that we can contact you to invite you to the second consultation. Any personal information held about you will then be destroyed, unless you have opted in to being kept informed of the study findings.

The consultations will be audio-recorded, but the recordings will only be used to write up notes of the discussions. The recordings will not be transcribed and will be destroyed as soon as the notes are written. The notes will summarise what was said, but will not record who said what or any participant names or identifiable information. The notes will be used to produce a written summary of each consultation, which will form part of the research data for the study.

8. What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of the study will be shared with policy-makers and practitioners from education, social care and health through conferences, publications, and policy briefings, including a briefing for younger readers. You will not be identified in any publication or presentation.

9. What if there is a problem?

If you wish to complain, or have grounds for concerns about any aspect of the manner in which you have been approached or treated during the course of this research, please contact Gillian Hewitt or Sarah MacDonald. If your complaint is not managed to your satisfaction, please contact Professor EJ Renold, Chair of the Cardiff University School of Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, (socsi-ethics@cardiff.ac.uk; 029 208 75389).

If you are harmed by taking part in this research study, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, you may have grounds for legal action, but you may have to pay for it.

10. Who is organising and funding this research study?

The research is organised by Gillian Hewitt and Sarah MacDonald, from the Centre for Development, Evaluation, Complexity and Implementation in Public Health Improvement (DECIPHer), School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University. The research is funded by Health and Care Research Wales (www.healthandcareresearchwales.org/).

11. Who has reviewed this research study?

This research study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the School of Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, Cardiff University (reference 301).

12. Further information and contact details

Should you have any questions relating to this study or the consultation, please contact us during normal working hours:

Gillian Hewitt, wisc@cardiff.ac.uk; 029 225 10083

Sarah MacDonald, wisc@cardiff.ac.uk; 029 225 10097

If you would like to take part in the consultation, please complete this Cardiff University [webform](#) and a researcher will contact you.

Thank you for considering taking part in this consultation.