



UNIVERSITY of
BRADFORD

Information Sheet for Parents and Guardians

If after reading this information sheet you would like to discuss any aspect of the research, please come along to the information event being held for parents on Monday 30 January at 10-30a.m.. Alternatively, please contact me via the e-mail address below.

What's the research about?

The research is being undertaken to find out what children and young people do to help at home. It is hoped that your son or daughter will be willing to tell us about what they do and share their views about this.

A similar study about what children do to help at home was undertaken in Luton in 2001 and I hope to compare the findings from that study with those from this new study, to see if there have been any changes. The information gathered will be published later on to help professional groups and policy-makers in health and social care, education, community and youth work both at national and international levels, know more about the needs and experiences of young carers.

So who are you?

My name is Janet Warren and I'm a lecturer and researcher at the University of Bradford. I worked with children and young people previously on the 2001 research study. I'm very interested in hearing your son or daughter's views and think it's very important that adults should listen to what children and young people have to say.

Why are we contacting you?

We believe that children and young people know what it is like to help at home and we feel that they hold valuable information which we can't get anywhere else. For this reason, we have approached the school where your son or daughter attends to ask for their help in making contact with children and young people who might be interested in participating in the research. I am writing to ask for your permission for your son or daughter to be able to take part in the study.

What would they have to do?

We are inviting children, young people and young adults who are aged 9-18 years old to take part in a survey which will involve answering some questions about what they do to help at home. This will include questions about domestic, general and emotional care tasks, nursing-type care and intimate care tasks, and how they feel about the tasks that they do. Everyone who agrees to take part will complete the same questionnaire. The questions will take about 20-30 minutes to answer. Some of the questions will just need a 'yes' or 'no' answer; others may need a bit more information. The questionnaire will be completed at school.

What will my son or daughter get out of it?

Unfortunately, we cannot pay your son or daughter for helping with the research. If they help us, they will be helping other young people, too, who may be taking on caring roles by contributing to the improvement of services. Participating in the study will also give them the chance to contribute to a piece of research that will be published nationally and internationally.

What if my son or daughter changes their mind?

If they change their mind and decide that they no longer want to take part in the research, they can withdraw at any time without any questions, and if at any point whilst completing the questionnaire they want to stop, that's also fine, they will not be pressurised to continue, if they don't want to.

We will have a list of support agencies that they can contact if something comes up in the questionnaire that they would like some help with.

What if my son or daughter doesn't want to take part?

That's no problem. We only want them to participate in the survey if they want to. This is totally voluntary so if they think they don't want to do it, that's fine.

Will other people know about what they say?

We are the only ones who will know that they have taken part in this project unless you or they decide to tell other people. Anything they say will remain completely confidential UNLESS they tell me something that means they or somebody else is at risk of harm. In this case, I might have to tell somebody else to keep people safe.

When people are sure no-one else knows that it is them writing or talking, they can feel safe from other people knowing too much about them. This is why, in this project, it has been decided that the names of the young people helping with the research will not be included on the questionnaire or in any publications.

I'm interested in my son or daughter getting involved, so what do I do?

You do not need to do anything further. You only need to e-mail Ms Akram at m.chishti@thesharedlearningtrust.org.uk, if you are **not** happy about your child taking part in the research.

An information event will be held for pupils on Monday 30 January 2017 to enable your son or daughter to make an informed decision about whether they wish to take part in the research. In the event of a child wishing to participate when a parent/carer has indicated that they do not wish them to, if this difference of view cannot be mediated, we will not permit your son or daughter to participate. Also, if your son or daughter does not wish to participate on the day, their view will be respected. Questionnaires will be distributed during w/b 6 February 2017.

Thank you for reading this information leaflet.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Janet Warren

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