



Voluntary care arrangements for children and families in Scotland

Information for caregivers on this research and the privacy of children and young people

Visit our voluntary care arrangements research webpage:
<https://www.celcis.org/our-work/research/voluntary-care-arrangements>

Hello! Our names are Brandi Lee, Robert, and Micky. We are researchers from CELCIS, the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection, based at the University of Strathclyde.

Your child's social worker will have discussed this research with you, and this information sheet will give you further details.

The information in this document will tell you about our research, but you can ask more questions at any time. Please think carefully about this information before you decide whether or not you think your child is able to understand and consent to the research.

About this research

We'd like to find out about children and young people's views and experiences of voluntary care arrangements, which are sometimes called 'Section 25' arrangements.

Voluntary care arrangements are when parents agree with social workers that their child should live with somebody else who will take care of them. This could be a close family member, a family friend, or a foster carer.

We're interested in how social workers talk to children and young people about voluntary care arrangements. We're also interested in how children or young people are involved in the conversations that happen around how the decision that someone else should help care for them is made, and the support that children and young people felt they needed and may have got at the time.

If your child has experience of a voluntary care arrangement, we'd like to know what they think.

What is your child being invited to do?



We're planning some time for children and young people to come together in-person to speak with us. There will be activities to help them think about and share their thoughts with us in a safe space.

If your child would like to ask any questions about the workshop, they can get in touch with us and we'd be happy to speak to them.

If they would like to share your thoughts but cannot or do not want to take part in the workshop, we can arrange a conversation just with them. This will take about 30 minutes and will be arranged with them and you, their caregiver.

As a thank you for sharing their time and knowledge with us, your child will receive a £10 voucher.

What are you being invited to do?



Please read the research information carefully and consider whether you think your child would be able to understand the implications of taking part in the research and give free and informed consent. If you feel that they can consent, we will ask you to speak to them about it. If they are interested in taking part, we will ask that you support their participation in a workshop.

Children's rights in taking part

If your child decides to take part in this project it is important to know that:

- It is completely up to them whether they want to take part.
- No matter what they decide about taking part, it won't change where they stay or who takes care of them.
- If they want to stop in the middle of taking to us, we will ask them if they want us to use what they have already told us or if they'd like us to get rid of our notes and not use anything they have said.

- After talking to us, if they decide that they don't want to help us with the project anymore, that's OK. We will listen to them and will not use anything they told us and get rid of the information about them. We can stop using what they told us at any time up until we start writing about what we found out.
- If you they choose to take part in the project, we might use some of the words they say but we will not tell people who said it or use their real name in what we write. They will have the chance to choose a name to keep in our notes, and we will ask them which pronoun (he, she, they, etc) they prefer to use. We will use this chosen name and pronoun if we use something they said in what we write.
- We won't use anything they've shared with us for any reason other than for the project. What we write about what we learned will be used to share with other people to make things better for children and families
- They can ask to see what information we have about them at any time.
- We won't share information about them or anything they said with anyone except the project team unless what they tell us means that they or someone else may be in danger. If this happens, we have to speak to their social worker.



How will your child's information be used?

To make it easier to remember what is said, we would like to record the conversation we have with all the children at the workshop. We will only use the recording to write notes on what everyone said at the workshop and your child will not be identified in anything we write.

The information we get from the research will be kept safely at the university for five years. After this time, we will carefully get rid of any information from the research.

With the information that your child and others share with us, we will write about what we find out and do presentations to let other people know what we find out. We hope this will help make things better for children and families in the future.

What happens next? Contact us to take part

If you have any questions, or if you'd like to let us know that they want to take part, you can phone or send a text or WhatsApp message to Robert in our team on 07967339359, or you can email Robert and Brandi Lee at: celcis.vca@strath.ac.uk.

Need to speak to someone?

If you're finding anything in your life hard at the moment and would like to talk to someone about it, or find out



where to get help, you can ask for support from any one of these free services:

If you would like to speak to someone confidentially for support, you can contact **ParentLine Scotland** for free by phoning 08000 28 22 33, Monday - Friday from 6am - 6pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 9am - 12pm.

Breathing Space, a free, confidential, phone and webchat service is also available for anyone in Scotland over the age of 16 to listen, offer advice, and provide information to them. Visit <http://www.breathingspace.scot> anytime, or phone 0800 83 85 87 Monday-Thursday 6pm - 2am, and Friday-Monday 6pm - 6am.

Data Protection

We will keep the things you tell us safe, but if you have any questions about how we're using it or think we should do it differently, you can email: dataprotection@strath.ac.uk.

You can read more information on how your information is kept safe here: <https://tinyurl.com/S25privacy>

The University of Strathclyde Ethics Committee approved this study. If you are not happy about the study, you can talk to someone from the committee by phoning 0141 444 8629 or emailing ethics@strath.ac.uk.

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to think about being part of



the research. We appreciate it and look forward to speaking to you soon.