

Voluntary care arrangements for children and families in Scotland

Information for children aged 8-15 on this research and your privacy

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.



The information in this document will tell you about our research, but you can ask more questions at any time. Please think about this information before you decide about taking part.





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 and how they are involved in making decisions about their care. We're also interested the support that children and young people felt they needed and may have got at the time.

If you have had experience of a voluntary care arrangement, we'd like to know what you think!

What are you being invited to do?

We're planning some time for children to come together in-person to speak with us. There will be activities to help you think about and share your thoughts with us in a safe space. Please speak to your caregiver or social worker if you're interested taking part – and we can speak with you or them before this too.

If you 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 you, either online or in-person. This will take about 30 minutes and will be arranged with you and the person who cares for you.



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

Your rights in taking part

If you decide to take part in this project it is important to know that:

- It is completely up to you whether you want to take part.
- No matter what you decide about taking part, it won't change where you stay or who takes care of you.
- If you want to stop in the middle of talking to us, we will ask you if you want us to use what you have already told us or if you'd like us to get rid of our notes and not use anything you have said.
- After talking to us, if you decide that you don't want to help us with the project anymore, that's OK. We will listen to you and will not use anything you told us and get rid of the information about you. We can stop using what you told us at any time up until we start writing about what we found out.
- If you choose to take part in the project, we might use some of the words you say but we will not tell people who said it or use your real name in what we write. You will have the chance to choose a name to keep in our notes for you, and we will ask you which



pronoun (he, she, they, etc) you prefer to use. We will use this chosen name and pronoun if we use something you said in what we write.

- We won't use anything you'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.
- You can ask to see what information we have about you at any time.
- We won't share information about you or anything you said with anyone except the project team unless what you tell us means that you or someone else may be in danger. If this happens, we have to speak to your social worker.

How will your information be used?

To make it easier to remember what you say, we would like to record the conversation we have at the workshop or just with you. We will only use the recording to write notes on what everyone said at the workshop and you 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 you and others share with us, we will write reports 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?

If you have any questions, you can ask the person who gave you this information. You can also tell them if you know that you want to take part. If you like, you can speak with your caregiver about contacting us directly instead of asking your social worker to contact us.

Once they get in touch, Brandi Lee or Robert, two of the researchers, will answer any questions you may have. You will then be asked if you'd like some time to think about it or to ask other people for advice.

If you decide to take part, Brandi Lee or Robert will let you know when and where the workshop will be and make sure you are able to attend. We will also ask that your caregiver is available to support you after the workshop.

You have the right to say whether you want to take part or not, but we are responsible for making sure that an adult in your life knows you're taking part in the research.

Contact us

If you have any questions, or if you'd like to let us know that you 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 the service below.

If you are 18 years old or younger, you can contact **Childline** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by phoning 0800 111, or visit www.childline.org.uk

Childline also offers a counsellor service online: <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/>

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 or your caregiver can email: dataprotection@strath.ac.uk.

You and your caregiver 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.

