



Gathering experiences of children's hearings since lockdown

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-17

Do you have a view or experience to share on how children's hearings have been going since lockdown?

We are inviting young people to complete a questionnaire about their views and experiences on Children's Hearings.

We want to hear from young people who want to share their view about children's hearings during lockdown and social distancing.

Who are we?

We are researchers who are interested in the rights of children, young people, parents and carers, and we are interesting in helping services to be the best that they can be in supporting people.

Our names are: Robert Porter, Fiona Mitchell, Emma Young and Nina Vaswani.

We all work at the University of Strathclyde.

Who is being invited to participate?

We want to hear from **young people who have taken part in a children's hearing since the coronavirus 'lockdown' and social distancing**, and **young people who have not but have relevant experience and a view they would like to share**.

We are also asking adults who usually attend a children's hearings about their views and experiences too, like parents, carers, social workers, panel members, reporters, advocacy workers and solicitors.

What are you being asked to do?

We want to know about your experiences of children's hearings. Sharing your views and experience can help online hearings become better for everybody. We are inviting you to spend 15-20 minutes to complete a questionnaire either online or with a researcher on the telephone.

How can you take part?

You can choose to take part by either:

1. Completing an online questionnaire here using a smart phone, tablet or computer – www.celcis.org/CHsurvey

2. Texting us a message on 07903 332 3598 to say that you would like to do the questionnaire by telephone – We will text or call you back to arrange a time to talk and work through the questions with you.

Why are we asking these questions?

- Children’s Hearings have not been able to take place in the same way as they usually do.
- We know that new ways of carrying out hearings are important for the rights and experiences of children, young people, parents and carers.
- We know that there are many people who are working hard to make sure that hearings can be held during lockdown, and they want to know what can be improved upon.
- We know that listening to what young people think about hearings can make them better.

What do you need to know to make a choice about whether to take part or not?

- It should take 15 minutes to complete if you type in your answers online OR about 20 minutes if you choose answer the questions by telephone.
- We will not ask you to type in your name or information about what is happening for you with your family and home at the moment
- We think it might help if you to talk to an adult who is responsible for your care about completing the questionnaire, so that they can help you if you need any help.
- You can stop taking part at any time, and do not have to answer any question you don’t want to.
- We will respect your privacy, confidentiality and anonymity
 - This means that we will not share the details of your answers with anyone else. The only exception we would make is if you share details while completing the questionnaire over the telephone that mean we need to act to ensure that someone is not hurt. If we need to do this, we will try to involve you in deciding how best to deal with this – for instance who to contact, and how.
 - We will store all information provided securely, at the University of Strathclyde on secure software and server platforms. All data will be deleted within three years of the project.
 - If you want to do the questionnaire by phone, this means that we will speak to you in a room, in our homes, where we will not be disturbed and where we will not share any information that you have told us.
- When we have collected as many views and experiences as we can, we will look across all the information shared and take account of people’s views, perspectives and experiences to write a report on what is happening and how things can be improved for young people and families.
- Once you completed your questionnaire online, or with a researcher on the phone, it is not possible to withdraw it, as we will not be able to separate out your answers from other peoples.

Our commitments to people who take part

- We will listen to your views and experiences.
- We will store all questionnaire responses securely, meaning that no one beyond us can read any of the answers (Robert, Fiona, Emma and Nina)
- We will not audio record your calls if you chose to talk to us over the phone – instead we will write a note of your answers and enter it as a questionnaire response.
- We will look at what you say alongside what others say, and we will provide an overview of what is happening and what could be better.

- We will provide information about where you can get advice or support, if you are finding things difficult in relation to children's hearings, or during lockdown.
- We will make sure that you can read about what we find out. We will post information online at www.celcis.org/CHsurvey by 31st July 2020. We will also share it on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CELCIS), Twitter (@CELCIStweets) and through organisations who have helped the research to happen.

People and organisations offering support to people finding things hard in relation to children's hearings or during lockdown

We know that thinking about children's hearings can bring up feelings and experiences that can be sad, stressful or upsetting, and that this might be particularly hard at the moment while 'lockdown' and social restrictions are happening.

If you feel that you might need help or support, these listening and helping services might be helpful for talking through how you are feeling and anything that you are find particularly hard at the moment:

- **For children and young people** Childline Call 0800 1111 or access [1-2-1 counsellor chat](#) online.

For information about the hearings system:

- Children's Hearings Scotland - www.chscotland.gov.uk
- The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration - www.scra.gov.uk

For support in joining hearings:

- For children and young people's advocacy: Who Cares? Scotland Call 0141 226 4441 or email help@whocarescotland.org

If you have legal questions relating to a children's hearing:

- CLAN Child Law – www.clanchildlaw.org.uk or Freephone: 0808 129 0822
- Scottish Child Law Centre – www.sclc.org
- Scottish Legal Aid Board – www.slab.org.uk

Information about who makes sure that we respect your rights and safety while we research

This research was granted ethical approval by the University of Strathclyde Ethics Committee.

If you have any questions or concerns, during or after the research, or wish to contact an independent person you can ask questions, please contact:

Secretary to the University Ethics Committee, Research & Knowledge Exchange Services, University of Strathclyde, Graham Hills Building, 50 George Street Glasgow, G1 1QE, Telephone: 0141 548 3707, Email: ethics@strath.ac.uk

A commitment to collaboration and improvement

The research is being undertaken in collaboration with the Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership, who want to make children's hearings better and fairer for children and young people, parents and carers, and professionals who are supporting decisions to be made.