

Voluntary care arrangements for children and families in Scotland

Information for social workers 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 are interested in finding out more about voluntary care arrangements, created using Section 25 (s.25) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

Section 25 allows an arrangement in which parents agree to the local authority accommodating and caring for their child away from the family home. CELCIS's initial exploration of voluntary care arrangements in Scotland indicated that there is a lot of variation in how they are used across Scotland.

We are interested in speaking with social workers who have been involved in voluntary care arrangements. This includes:

- Children and families social workers
Social work managers

Everything that we learn from the study will be used by CELCIS and others to help ensure children and families receive the best service possible.

If you have experience of a voluntary care arrangement as a social worker we'd like to invite you to take part!



We are inviting children and families social workers to take part in a focus group, and social work managers to take part in one-to-one interviews with us.

The focus groups will take place in-person and will last approximately 90 minutes to allow for group discussion. One-to-one interviews will take place either in-person or online and will last approximately 45 minutes.

Supporting children and young people to make their voices heard

We would like all professionals to support us in making sure that the voices of children and young people can be heard in this project.

If you know a child or young person who has been cared for under a voluntary care arrangement who you think might be interested in talking to us for this project, we would be grateful if you could let them know about it. You can find more detailed information for children and young people involvement, and participation information for their caregivers on our webpage.

If a child aged 8-15 or young person aged 16-25 has told you that they are interested in taking part in the project, you can find more detailed information for children and young people involvement, and participation information for their caregivers on our webpage.

Your rights in taking part

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

- It is up to you whether you want to take part.
- If you start talking to us and then you decide not to take part, that's OK, and this won't affect anything.
- If you decide to take part in the project, you can stop talking to us any time you want to. If you want to stop in the middle of the conversation, we will ask you if you want us to use what you have already told us or if you want us to get rid of our notes and not use anything you have said.
- If you decide that you don't want to take part in the project after our conversation, 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 up what we have found from talking to everybody in the project.

- Your involvement in the study will be kept confidential. We will not share what you say to us with anyone except the researchers. 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.
- What you say will not be attributed to you and will remain anonymous unless something you say indicates that you or someone else are at risk of harm. We will share that information with the relevant authorities.
- You have the right to ask us about and see what information we have about you.

How will your information be used?

To make it easier to remember what you say, we will record the conversation we have at the workshop and in interviews. 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 learn 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 may write reports and articles and do presentations to let other people know what we find out. These research outputs are intended to help improve services for children and families.

What happens next?

If you're not sure about helping with the research and have questions, you can contact Brandi Lee or Robert, two of the researchers, who will answer your questions. If you decide to take part, Brandi Lee or Robert will agree with you when and where the focus group or interview will take place.

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?

Please consider if a listening and helping service might be helpful for talking through how you are feeling and anything that you are find particularly hard in your life at the moment.

Breathing Space, is a confidential phone and webchat service and available to anyone in Scotland over the age of 16 who needs someone to listen, offer advice, and provide information to them.

Visit www.breathingspace.scot anytime, or phone [0800 83 85 87](tel:0800838587) 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.