



## Gathering experiences of children's hearings since lockdown

### PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FOR ADULTS

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

We are inviting people to take part in a piece of research to gather views and experiences on Children's Hearings, following the changes made to try and control the spread of coronavirus. We want to hear from 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 interested 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 **people who have taken part in a children's hearing since the coronavirus 'lockdown' and social distancing**, and **people who have not but have relevant experience and a view they would like to share**. This includes people who may ordinarily attend a children's hearing, such as:

- Children and young people
- Parents
- Other family members
- Carers, whether relatives, foster or residential
- Panel members
- Reporters
- Advocacy workers
- Solicitors
- Social workers
- Safeguarder

#### **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 laptop – [www.celcis.org/CHsurvey](http://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 they have before.
- We know that this is 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 help the hearings work well for families, and they want to know what can be improved upon.
- We know that making a children’s hearing work well depends on the care and attention of many people, who hold different roles.

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

- The questionnaire should take 15 minutes to complete if you enter it online, or 20 minutes if you choose to do it by telephone. It includes up to 14 questions, asking about views and experiences of children’s hearings.
- We will not ask for any personal information, such as your name, your circumstances, what is happening for you specifically, or, if you are a worker, the region or team in which you work or volunteer.
- You can stop taking part at any time, and do not have to answer any question you don’t want to.
- We will respect privacy, confidentiality and anonymity
  - This means that if you share any information about yourself, others, or your organisation, we will not share the details of your answers with anyone else. The only exception we would make to this is if you share details while completing the questionnaire over the telephone that mean we need to act to ensure that someone is not at immediate risk of harm. If we need to do this, we will try to involve you in thinking with us about how best to deal with this – for example, 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 provide a record of what is happening and how this can be improved going forward.
- Once you have submitted your questionnaire online, or with a researcher on the phone, it is not possible to withdraw it, as we will not be able to take out your answers from others that are shared.

### **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](http://www.celcis.org/CHsurvey) by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. We will also share it on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CELCISO](http://www.facebook.com/CELCISO)), 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 stressful or upsetting, and that this might be particularly hard at the moment while ‘lockdown’ and social restrictions are happening.

Please consider if any of the following 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 parents or carers** Parentline Scotland Call 08000 282233, browse website for advice and support or start a webchat <https://www.children1st.org.uk/help-for-families/parentline-scotland/>
- **For professionals and practitioners** National Wellbeing Hub for those working in health and social care <https://www.promis.scot/>

For information about the hearings system:

- Children’s Hearings Scotland - [www.chscotland.gov.uk](http://www.chscotland.gov.uk)
- The Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration - [www.scra.gov.uk](http://www.scra.gov.uk)

For support in joining hearings:

- **For parental support:** Children 1<sup>st</sup> <https://www.children1st.org.uk/who-we-are/news/news/families-involved-in-children-s-hearings-to-get-support-through-parentline/>

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

- CLAN Child Law – [www.clanchildlaw.org.uk](http://www.clanchildlaw.org.uk) or Freephone: 0808 129 0822
- Scottish Legal Aid Board – [www.slab.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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.