



## Wellbeing and Kinship **Care** Study: Information Sheet

**You are invited to take part in a survey exploring kinship carer and child wellbeing. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.**

### ***Why is this study needed?***

95 per cent of children living in kinship care are not known to services, which means very little is known about the needs of children and families. There is very little research about kinship care in the UK.

We want to hear about the experiences and needs of kinship carers across Scotland, to build a picture of what support is needed.

### ***What does taking part involve?***

You can take part if you are a kinship carer living in Scotland with at least one kinship child or young person aged between 6 and 18 years old living in your care.

You will be asked to complete a questionnaire and will be given a choice about whether you do this on paper or as an interview with the researcher. It should take around 50 minutes to do. If you choose to do it as an interview it is likely to take a bit longer. The questionnaire will ask questions about you, your family, parental contact, relationships, and the wellbeing of you and the child you are caring for.

If you are completing the questionnaire pack with an interviewer you can decide together where to meet.

### ***What are the benefits of taking part?***

There are no personal benefits to you in taking part. You might find the questions interesting, and an opportunity to reflect on your experience. By participating you will help increase understanding about the needs of kinship carers and children in Scotland.

### ***Are there any risks in taking part?***

There are no risks in taking part. However, if anything in the questionnaire makes you uncomfortable or causes you to feel upset, you can take a break or withdraw at any time.

If any information is shared during contact with the researcher that suggests that a child or vulnerable adult is at significant risk of harm, the researcher has a duty to report this.

The research has been approved by the University of Edinburgh's Research Ethics Committee.

### ***What will happen to my information?***

Confidentiality of data will be maintained at all times. All your data will be kept securely stored so that only the researchers can access it. Only the lead researcher will have access to consent forms with names and contact details. These will be stored separately from questionnaires.

Overall study findings will be shared to help develop services, but all your information will be anonymised so that you and your family are not identifiable. No information about individuals or groups will be shared with other agencies or services.

***What should I do if I want to take part?***

If you want to take part you can contact the researcher directly using the contact information below. Alternatively, if you learned about the research through a group, you can let the group leader/organiser know and they will contact the researcher.

***What if I change my mind?***

Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the study at any time, up to the time of data analysis, without giving any reason.

***How will I find out about the results?***

The overall project aims to finish in September 2020.

Results will be given in verbal and/or written format through kinship care groups and other kinship care events. The results of the study will also be submitted as part of the lead researcher's PhD in Clinical Psychology, and may be submitted to an academic journal for publication so that others can learn from our study.

The study will be used to shape the services and support provided to kinship carers and children. The overall findings will be shared with policy makers to raise awareness of strengths and needs at a national level.

*Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.*

**Contact details:**

For further information or to take part in this research, please contact:

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sarah Jamieson              | Dr Emily Taylor          |
| PhD student/Lead Researcher | Supervisor               |
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| T: 07557 489 196            | T: 0131 650 3892         |

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| The independent contact for the study is: | Dr Charles Marley                  |
|   | Teaching Fellow                    |
|   | School of Health in Social Science |
|   | The University of Edinburgh        |
|   | E: Charles.Marley@ed.ac.uk         |
|   | T: 0131 651 3982                   |

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Any complaints can be directed to: | Professor Charlotte Clarke                 |
|                                    | Head of School of Health in Social Science |
|                                    | The University of Edinburgh                |
|                                    | E: Charlotte.Clarke@ed.ac.uk               |
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Or you can access a complaint form at  
[www.ed.ac.uk/files/imports/fileManager/WEB%20Complaint%20Form.pdf](http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/imports/fileManager/WEB%20Complaint%20Form.pdf)

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