**A research project examining the participation of children and young people**

**in special educational needs decisions**

**Information and Consent Form: Professionals**

**Project Aims:**

The aim of this ESRC-funded research project is to examine how children’s rights are being promoted in the area of special educational and additional support needs. The research is being conducted by two teams, one based at the University of Edinburgh and one at the University of Manchester. Further information is available at:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/centres-groups/creid/projects/autonomy-rights-sen-asn-children>

Parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs have for some time had a right to have a say in their child’s education. But there has been an increasing emphasis on ensuring that the views of children and young people themselves are reflected in the educational decisions which are taken. This research aims to explore the extent to which children and young people with these needs are being given opportunities to participate in everyday decisions about their education and also in disagreement resolution processes. The research will provide information, in the context of special educational needs, on:

1. the strategies used by schools and local authorities to engage children and young people in educational decision-making;
2. children’s and young people’s views on their involvement in decision-making relating to their education;
3. parents/carers’ views on the extent to which their children are active participants in the decision-making process;
4. factors which promote or inhibit the ability of children’s and young people’s views to be heard and taken into account.

**Research with schools and local authorities:**

In order to further understand the issues highlighted above, and as part of our research, we intend to carry out eight case studies within each of three local authorities in England. Within each authority, we would like to engage with children and young people with SEN/D in different family/care and school contexts. As part of each case study, we would also like to talk to parents and carers and up to two significant professionals that are involved in their child’s education and support. All participation will be voluntary and with a guarantee of anonymity.

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about this project. For further information about the project please contact Professor Sheila Riddell, [sheila.riddell@ed.ac.uk](mailto:sheila.riddell@ed.ac.uk), Professor Neville Harris or Dr Gail Davidge: [AutonomyProject@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:AutonomyProject@manchester.ac.uk)

This is to confirm that the project has been explained to me and I agree to being interviewed for the above research. I also know that I can withdraw from the interview at any time and that the interview transcript will only be seen by members of the research team.

Name ……………………………………………………………..

Signature ……………………………………………………………..

Date ………………………………………….………………….

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.