

## Participant Information Sheet Online Survey

### **Periods in a Pandemic: how UK period poverty initiatives are managing with Covid-19 related challenges**

**Research Team:** Gemma Williams (Project Lead), Dr Annalise Weckesser, Dr Emma Craddock

We would like to invite you to take part in our research study, but before you decide to take part, here are some things you need to know...

#### **What are we researching?**

We would like to know how UK projects are managing some of the challenges linked to Covid-19 lockdown and restrictions, and how they are continuing to help people that struggle to afford period products (like pads and tampons) or that need education about periods and menstrual health. This is also sometimes called 'period poverty'.

#### **Why have I been asked to take part?**

We'd like to talk to you as use services that support people experiencing period poverty as part of their work.

#### **What do I have to do, if I want to take part?**

If you would like to take part in the project, you will be asked to complete an online survey. The survey is anonymous, so your name will not be linked to your survey responses. By completing the survey, and submitting your response, you have given permission for your anonymous data to be included in this research project.

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. It includes 'tick box' questions, and ones where you will be given space to write your own answers.

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

If you change your mind while filling in the survey, you can exit at any stage and your responses will not have been recorded. However, once you submit the survey, it will not be possible to remove your data from the project.

Taking part in the study, or choosing not to take part, will not affect your access to any services that you are currently using.

#### **Are there any risks to me?**

We do not anticipate any risks to you. Your feedback will be used as part of a larger study, called 'Periods in a Pandemic: how UK period poverty initiatives are managing with Covid-19 related challenges'. What you say will be added together with feedback from others across the UK, and that will be used to inform people of how the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted upon people that have experienced period poverty. We might also want to publish this information in a research article, or a book, or tell people about the study on a website. Your name will never be used in any reports, articles or books and will not be on any websites that mention this study.

#### **Do I get any payment for taking part?**

At the beginning of the survey, you will be asked if you would like to receive a £10 Amazon voucher for taking part in the survey. If you would like one, please add your name and email address in the space provided. This information

will be kept separate from your survey responses, on secure BCU computers, which only the research team can access.

If you do not submit your survey, you will not receive the voucher.

**Has anyone checked this is OK?**

Yes they have! This study has been checked by Birmingham City University's Research Ethics Committee, who makes sure that we aren't doing any harm to people, and that we keep their information safe.

**What if there is a problem, or if I have some extra questions?**

You can contact Gemma if you have any questions about the study, or are worried about anything to do with taking part in it. Gemma is leading this research study, and she will be happy to answer your questions. Her email address is [gemma.williams@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:gemma.williams@bcu.ac.uk).

You can also email [HELS\\_ethics@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:HELS_ethics@bcu.ac.uk) if you are not happy with the way that the research has been undertaken, or if we haven't been able to answer your questions.

**Before continuing with the survey, please confirm the following:**

I have read the information and confirm that:

- I am over 18 years old
- I would like to receive a £10 voucher\*
- \*Name and email to be provided – this information will be kept separately to your survey data