

MH-CAT: A SURVEY OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE **INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

We are writing to you to invite you to do an online survey about the wellbeing and mental health of children and young people in care.

WHAT IS THIS SURVEY ABOUT?

Your local authority will send you or your carer the link to the online survey. This survey can be done on a mobile phone, a tablet or a computer/laptop. It will take about **20 minutes** to complete.

We are interested in your honest views and opinions. There are no right or wrong answers. There are questions about:

- Being in care and the place where you currently live
- School or college
- People and support
- Contact with your birth family
- Your thoughts and feelings
- Your health

WHO IS BEING ASKED TO TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH?

All children and young people in your local authority aged between 11-17 years old who have been in care for at least one year are invited to take part in this research.

DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH?

No. It's completely up to you whether you take part. You can also choose not to answer any of the questions or stop doing the survey at any point.

All children and young people who complete the survey will get a **£15 gift voucher** as a thank you for taking part.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INFORMATION YOU GIVE US?

- We will put together all the answers given by young people in your local authority to give information to the managers and social work teams about how the children and young people they look after are doing.
- We will also put together all the answers given by young people in all the local authorities taking part in this research. We will write reports and present the findings at meetings and training events to help those who are in charge make better decisions about children in care.
- In the future, we may link the information you provide in the survey to other data held about you by the Department for Education so that we can help make better decisions about children in care in all of England. It may be also used by other researchers in the future.

WE WOULD LIKE TO REASSURE YOU THAT:

- The research team will never know your name or who you are. The survey will just have an identity number from the local authority to link it to you, and we do not ask for any information that will identify you or anyone you are living with.
- It will not be possible for anyone to know who you are or what you said from the results or reports.
- Your answers to the survey are confidential. However, if your survey answers makes us worried that you or someone else is at risk of serious harm, then we will let your social worker know the survey identity number so that your social worker can work out who you are and contact you.
- You can ask for your answers to be deleted by letting your social worker know within 1 month of filling in the survey, who will let us know your wish.
- We ask for an email address so we can send you a gift voucher, this will not be kept with your data from the survey.
- All information will be kept securely in password protected computers. Only the research team can access this information.
- The research follows the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). More information about how we collect and analyse information for research at the University of Bristol can be found here <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/data-protection/policy/research-participant-fair-processing-notice/>.

INFORMATION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT THAT YOU CAN ACCESS

As the survey asks about many areas of your life, there might be questions you find upsetting. You may wish to speak to a carer or social worker about how you feel. A list of support services you can contact has also been sent with this information sheet. You can also access it [here](#).

If you have any questions about the survey, we would be very happy to answer them for you. You can email us at: mh-cat@bristol.ac.uk

Thank you for considering taking part in this study and taking the time to read this information.

Dinithi Wijedasa, Sarah Harding, Rachel Hahn.
(PROJECT TEAM AT UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL)

If you have any complaints about the project, please contact: Dinithi Wijedasa
Email: Dinithi.Wijedasa@bristol.ac.uk

The research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) UK.