UNIVERSITY of STIRLING

Participant Information Sheet

Research Project Title:

Help-seeking for substance use and mental health challenges among justice-involved people in Scottish community contexts: An analysis of the influence of social networks

Background, aims of project

Across the world, there is evidence that many justice-involved people (people who are involved with prisons, community justice, probation, and the courts) experience mental health and substance use difficulties. However, they don't access support services needs as much as they could. The reasons some people do and don't seek help are complicated. One of the things that influences what we do are our social networks, and what is normal in our communities.

This study aims to explore how justice-involved peoples' social networks in their local communities influence their choices about seeking help for mental health or substance use.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited because you have experienced prison or community justice services in the last six months.

Do I have to take part?

No. You do not have to take part.

If you do decide to take part but change your mind, you can pull out of the study without needing to explain and without anyone else being told. You can do this by telling one of the researchers. The easiest way is by email. If you change your mind and pull out, we will not collect any more data from you. Any data collected up until the point that you pull out will still be used in the data analysis. This is because it is very difficult to take this type of data (your words) out again.

You will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to give consent.

What will happen if I take part?

You will take part in an interview with a researcher. You will have the option of coming in person to a private community meeting place near you, or meeting online using Microsoft Teams. Interviews will last around 60-90 minutes.

We will ask you questions about your views and experiences linked to mental health and substance use. We also want to understand the social connections you have and will ask questions to understand more about you who are close to.

You will be offered a £20 voucher payment for taking part. If you agree we will keep your contact details so that we can share the results with you.

Are there any potential risks in taking part?

We will be talking about experiences linked to mental health, drugs, and alcohol. Sometimes this can be difficult. Before the interview, a researcher will contact you to check if there is anything we can do to make the interview more comfortable for you.

If you find the discussion difficult, there will be the option to take a break and then re-start. We will provide details of organisations that might be able to provide support after taking part.

If you are not already using a service to support you, we will ask you for the name of a trusted person that we could contact if we have concerns about any risks to you or other people.

Are there any benefits in taking part?

You will be offered a £20 voucher for taking part. You might find it is positive to take part in research that could help others in the future. You might find the research interesting too.

Legal basis for processing personal data

As part of the project, we will be recording personal data relating to you. This will include your name and contact details so that we can invite you to an interview. If you agree, we will keep your information so we can share the results with you.

Your information will be processed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Under UK GDPR the legal basis for processing your personal data will be public interest.

What happens to the data I provide?

Recordings of the interviews will be typed up (transcribed). Any identifying information about you and anyone you talk about will be removed. These typed documents become the research data. The original recordings (of your voice) will then be deleted. You will be kept anonymous in the research data by changing your name for a 'pseudonym' (a different name) and changing other details that could be linked back to you.

Research data will be kept on the researchers Research Drive until outputs from the research are published, and then will be lodged in DataSTORRE in pseudo-anonymous format.

We will ask you for permission to use your words as quotes in publications, which might make you identifiable to people who know you through your words. Please think about if you are happy for this. You can still take part without your quotes being used.

The researchers will treat your participation as confidential. No-one will be informed that you took part. Remember that if a worker refers you, they might guess you have taken part but they won't know what you say. The only times your confidentiality may be broken is where the researchers have a concern about serious harm happening to you or others, or if we have a duty under UK law.

This may mean another person needs to be informed. Wherever possible this will be done with your knowledge and agreement.

Recorded media

In person interviews will be recorded with a voice recorder. Online interviews will be recorded using MS Teams. Recordings will be typed up and identifying information about you will be removed. This becomes the research data. The original recording will be deleted after this.

Will the research be published?

The research will be published in academic journals and presented at conferences. We will use other ways to share our findings too – including art work, online blogs and short briefings to different interested groups.

The University of Stirling is committed to making the outputs of research publicly accessible. We have an online open access repository STORRE. Unless funders or publishers say we can't, this research will be publicly disseminated through our open access repository.

We can share any outputs directly with you if you want to see them and agree to us keeping your contact details for this.

Direct quotes may be used so please think about if you are happy for this, as your words may be recognised by people who know you. You will be asked for consent to use direct quotes. If you do not want your quotes to be used, you can still take part in the research.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is organised by researchers at the University of Stirling.

The Economic and Social Research Council is funding this research but have no other role in the research.

Who has reviewed this research project?

The project has been approved by The University of Stirling General University Ethics Panel (13947). It has also been reviewed by The Salvation Army and Community Justice Scotland ethical approval boards.

Your rights

You have the right to ask to see a copy of the information we hold about you and to ask us to correct or delete information that is no longer needed.

You have the right to pull out of this project at any time without giving reasons and without any consequences to you.

You have the right to object to us processing relevant personal data. However, once the research data are being analysed it is not possible to remove your data from the study.

Who do I contact if I have concerns about this study or I want to complain?

If you would like to discuss the research please contact Dr Catriona Connell, catriona.connell@stir.ac.uk

If you have a complaint about the way you have been dealt with during the study or have experienced any harm, this will be taken seriously. Please address your complaint to Professor Derek McGhee, Dean of Faculty of Social Science, on this email address FoSSFacultyOffice@stir.ac.uk Professor McGhee is independent of this study.

You have the right to lodge a complaint against the University regarding data protection issues with the Information Commissioner's Office (https://ico.org.uk/concerns/).

The University's Data Protection Officer is Joanna Morrow, Deputy Secretary. If you have any questions relating to data protection these can be addressed to data.protection@stir.ac.uk in the first instance.