



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School Experiences of Children and Young People with a Parent in Prison

About me:

My name is Elenya McGovern, and I am a Trainee Educational Psychologist from the University of Birmingham, currently on placement at Coventry Educational Psychology Service. I am reaching out to tell you about a research study I am completing as part of my doctorate in applied educational and child psychology, and to seek your support in involving eligible students from your school.

Research Title: 'Exploring the Experiences of Children and Young People with a Parent/carer in Prison'

Purpose of the Research:

This study aims to delve into the experiences of children and young people aged 8-18 who have been impacted by parental or carer imprisonment. By identifying strengths and protective factors, the research aims to enhance understanding and assist schools and education services in better meeting the needs of this specific group.

Participation Details:

- The study involves a one-on-one interview with me, the trainee educational psychologist, lasting 45 minutes to an hour.
- The interview will be conducted in a quiet space at school or a local authority building, as suits the child/young person.
- Rapport-building games and activities will precede the interview, ensuring a comfortable environment.
- A low-demand, fun card game called 'Dobble' will conclude the session.
- The meeting will be audio recorded for transcription purposes.

Confidentiality and Ethical Considerations:

All data will be treated with utmost confidentiality and stored anonymously and securely. Your school and the child's identity will be protected throughout the study, and any potential risks will be managed appropriately. This research has received ethical approval by the University of Birmingham.

Benefits and Support:

The research aims to contribute to supporting children and young people with similar experiences in the future. Participants will receive a £10 Amazon voucher for taking part in the research. Resources and training opportunities from charities and organisations will be shared with participating families, organisations and schools.

Next Steps:

If you are aware of any families who may be eligible for participation, please pass on the participant information sheet for parents and pupils. You or the families can contact me directly at ekm260@student.bham.ac.uk.

Before sharing the information with families, please ensure that the selected families are aware of your knowledge of parental imprisonment within their family.

Thank you for considering this invitation. This research is supervised by Dr Anjam Sultana (academic and professional tutor at the University of Birmingham). If you have any enquiries or require further information, please feel free to email me or Dr Sultana using the information below.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

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