



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Let the People Sing: Qualitative study of the views of people experiencing homelessness who inject drugs/have a history of overdose on options for the management of their substance use.

You are being invited to take part in research exploring the views of people experiencing homelessness who inject drugs on options for the management of their substance use. This study is recruiting across Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Lanarkshire, Perth and Kinross, Aberdeenshire, Ayrshire and Arran and Highland. Richard Lowrie at the University of Edinburgh is leading this research. Before you decide whether to take part it is important you understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

The purpose of the study is to explore the views of people experiencing homelessness who use drugs on what support they would find helpful in the management of their substance use.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART?

You are invited to participate in this study because you have been identified as someone who is currently experiencing homelessness and who injects drugs and/or has a history of overdose.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

No – it is entirely up to you. If you do decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Deciding not to take part or withdrawing from the study will not affect your housing, employment or access to services in any way.

Please note that your data may be used in the production of formal research outputs (e.g. journal articles, conference papers, theses and reports) prior to your withdrawal and so you are advised to contact the research team at the earliest opportunity should you wish to withdraw from the study.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DECIDE TO TAKE PART?

If you do decide to take part, please keep this Information Sheet. You will be asked to sign an Informed Consent Form to show that you understand your rights in relation to the research, and that you are happy to participate.

A researcher will meet you in a location that is convenient for you, to conduct a short interview. You will be asked questions regarding your experiences of homelessness and substance use and your views on support required for the management of substance use. The interview will take place in a safe environment at a time that is



convenient to you. Ideally, we would like to audio record your responses (and will ask your permission to do this), so the location should be in a fairly quiet area. The interview should take around 30-60 minutes to complete.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

By sharing your experiences with us, you will be helping the Centre for Homelessness and Inclusion Health at the University of Edinburgh to better understand what people with lived experience of homelessness and substance use want in terms of support in the management of their substance use. We hope this will help inform the future design of services which support people who use drugs. Taking part also means you will be offered a £20 voucher to thank you for your time and insight.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS OR DISADVANTAGES ASSOCIATED WITH TAKING PART?

There are no significant risks associated with participation. However, as we will be asking questions about your experiences with substance use and homelessness as part of the interview, it is possible that discussing these topics could be upsetting for you. If you do become upset by any of the topics discussed, you are free to ask that the interview be paused, or that the researcher changes the topic of discussion. You are also free to stop the interview at any time, without giving a reason.

Although not the focus of this research, it is possible that participants may disclose engagement in technically illegal activities such as use of illegal drugs, or historic engagement in anti-social behaviour. We will keep such declarations confidential, unless what is disclosed poses a real danger to you or another member of the public, in which case we will be obligated to alert the relevant authorities as per the university's policies. This does not include disclosures of personal drug use.

WHAT IF I AM UNWELL?

If you feel unwell on the day of the interview, then please contact the researcher (Richard Lowrie Richard.lowrie@ed.ac.uk), and we will postpone or cancel the interview.

WILL MY TAKING PART BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

All the information we collect during the research will be kept confidential and there are strict laws which safeguard your privacy at every stage.

HOW WILL WE USE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU?

We will need to use information from you for this research project.

This information will include your name (for the consent form), year of birth (so that we can report the age range of people we talked to) and contact details (so that we can arrange the interview with you). Our research team will use this information to



do the research. People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your interview responses will not be linked to you directly and will have a code number instead.

We will keep all information about you safe and secure on protected University of Edinburgh systems.

Your data will be referred to by a unique participant number rather than by name. If you consent to being audio recorded, all recordings will be destroyed once they have been written down. Your data will only be viewed by the research team. We may also use a professional company (1st class secretarial services) to write down your interview recording for us. All identifying information (such as names or places mentioned) will be removed from the written version of the interview. All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected computer file in secure University servers, and all paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the University. Your consent information (which includes your name) will be kept separately from your responses to make sure your written words are not linked to you.

Once we have finished the study, we will destroy all personal information (name, contact details) but will keep some of the anonymised (interview) data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

- You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason. However, if you decide this more than a week after the interview, it may be impossible for us to remove your data from the study. That's why it's important to tell us if you are withdrawing as early as possible.
- While your personal data (name, contact details) will be securely deleted at the end of the project, we would like to keep your anonymised interview for at least three years. We will only do this with your permission.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/privacy-notice-research> or:

- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to Richard.lowrie@ed.ac.uk

The University of Edinburgh is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Edinburgh will keep identifiable information (consent forms) about you until the study has finished and, with your permission, your anonymised data for a minimum of 3 years.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE RESULTS OF THIS STUDY?

The results of this study may be summarised in published articles, reports and presentations. You will not be identifiable from any published results. Quotes or key findings will always be made anonymous in any outputs. With your consent, your anonymised information may also be kept for future research. A summary of the findings from the study will be made available to you if you would like to receive this. This summary will be sent to local services.

WHO IS ORGANISING AND FUNDING THE RESEARCH?

This study has been organised by The Centre for Homelessness and Inclusion Health in collaboration with NHS Education Scotland and sponsored by the University of Edinburgh.

WHO HAS REVIEWED THE STUDY?

The study proposal has been reviewed by the School of Health in Social Sciences research ethics committee at the University of Edinburgh.

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

If you have any further questions about the study, please contact the lead researcher, Richard Lowrie (Richard.lowrie@ed.ac.uk, Phone 07971 827565).

If you would like to discuss this study with someone independent of the study, please contact Dr Andrew McPherson (Andrew.McPherson@ggc.scot.nhs.uk).

If you wish to make a complaint about the study, please contact the head of School of Health in Social Science, Professor Matthias Schwannauer at:

headofschool.health@ed.ac.uk

or the study Sponsor, Research Governance Co-ordinator of the University of Edinburgh (College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences), at:

Cahss.res.ethics@ed.ac.uk