Measuring health and social care needs

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study about measuring the health and social care needs of people under probation supervision. This will involve completing a brief telephone or online interview to talk about your experience of filling in surveys of health and social care needs with people on your caseload. We would like to know whether you think this approach was useful, whether there were any problems with it, and how (if at all) you think it could be incorporated into practice in the future. This can include suggestions around changes to the survey.

Joining the study is entirely up to you. Before you decide, we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please read this information carefully, and discuss it with others if you want to.

Why are we doing this research?

Not much research has been done on what health and social care needs people on probation have, or if services are meeting their needs. Collecting this type of data is essential for informing commissioning decisions and supporting people to access the care that they need. We have asked you to help us to measure these needs amongst people on your caseload. We want to find out about your experience of completing the survey with people on your caseload, whether you thought it was useful, whether there were any problems with it, and how (if at all) you think it could best be integrated into future practice.

Why me?

You have been asked to take part because you are working in one of the areas where staff were asked to administer a survey of health and social care needs. We are keen to find out what probation staff thought of this approach to measuring needs and if it could be used in the future, or if it would need to be changed.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide if you want to take part. If you don't want to take part, just say no.

What will happen if I take part?

You just need to complete the consent form, and return it to the research team, and we will then select a time that suits you to conduct the telephone or online interview. We think this will take about 20 minutes.

We will digitally record the interview, type it out and analyse your answers to create themes around what people thought of using the survey. These themes will inform any proposed implementation model that is created at the end of the project.

What are the risks and benefits of taking part?

We do not think there are any risks to taking part. The benefits are that you are helping the research team to develop a practical approach to measuring the health and social care needs of people under

probation supervision so that in the future, anonymised data could be shared with other agencies to inform commissioning decisions.

Will people know that I'm taking part?

We will follow ethical and legal practice and all information about you will be handled in confidence. Your identity will be known to the research team. However, we will replace your name when we produce themes from the data. The consent form will ask if you wish for your name and/or the name of the organisation that you represent to be included in acknowledgements when we publish the research so that we can acknowledge your support for the project.

Privacy notice

The University of Lincoln is the lead organisation for this study and will be the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The university's Research Participant Privacy Notice https://ethics.lincoln.ac.uk/research-privacy-notice/ will explain how we will be using information from you to do this study.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the research?

Taking part is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason, and without your legal rights being affected. However, it will not be possible to withdraw your data after the analysis has been completed.

Where will my data be stored?

The data will be stored securely at the university in a folders that are only accessible to the research team, or in files created for the project on OneDrive. Only the research team will have access to it. The data from this study may be put in an Open Access repository for use in future studies, but this will not contain your name or personal data that would allow someone to identify your answers.

What will happen to the results of the research?

The research will be published as journal articles, and a summary will be sent to display in probation offices. Results will also be shared in other ways like presentations, blogs, and by social media.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is being organised by the University of Lincoln and is being funded by the National Institute for Health Research.

Who has reviewed the study?

All research done by the University of Lincoln is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any part of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers, who will do their best to answer your questions. The lead researcher's contact details are given at the end of this information sheet. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting ethics@lincoln.ac.uk.

If you feel that we have let you down in relation to your information rights then please contact the Information Compliance team by email on compliance@lincoln.ac.uk or by post at Information Compliance, Secretariat, University of Lincoln, Brayford Pool, Lincoln, LN6 7TS.

You can also make complaints directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO is the independent authority upholding information rights for the UK. Their website is ico.org.uk and their telephone helpline number is 0303 123 1113.

Further information and contact details

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