

Improving Healthcare for People under Probation Supervision

We would like to invite you to take part in a University research study about finding out what health and social care needs people on probation have, and if their needs are being met by health and social care services. 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 (like help with washing, dressing, housework, and taking medication) people on probation have, or if services are meeting their needs. We want to find out about this to improve understanding amongst people that plan and provide health and social care services about the types of health and social care needs people on probation are likely to have.

Why me?

We are asking people on probation in some parts of England to complete a short (around 15 minute) survey about their health and social care needs, and if they are getting the support that they need from health and social care services. You are being invited to take part because you are under probation supervision in one of the places where the research is being done.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide if you want to take part. If you decide not to do the survey this will not affect your legal rights or your contact with probation.

What will happen if I take part?

You just need to complete the consent form, fill in the survey, and give the survey and one copy of the consent form back to the person that gave them to you. For most people this will take 15 minutes at the most. If you need help to fill the survey in then someone from probation should be able to read through it with you and will write your answers down for you if you want them to.

Your answers will then be entered into a database for the research team to analyse. Your name will not be entered into this database so people will not be able to tell which answers are yours.

What are the risks and benefits of taking part?

We do not think there are any direct risks to completing the survey although you will have to think about your needs which could be upsetting if you know that they are not being met. It is up to you what you share in your answers. Probation staff will read your answers, so they will know if you write anything which they feel puts you or anyone else at any risk. If this happens, your Probation Officer will talk to you about it. As you will know from your probation induction their first steps are likely to be to try to help you to access appropriate treatment or support. A list of support services are included with the survey which you can keep. In rare cases if answers on a survey suggest an imminent risk that can't be managed, they may need to report this to someone else such as the Police or your GP but we see this as unlikely.

The benefits are that you are helping University researchers to understand what health and social care needs people on probation have, and if services are meeting their needs. People that plan and provide health and social care services can learn from this when they are thinking about how best to plan and provide services.

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. The people that give you the survey and the researchers will know that you took part, but your name will be replaced with a number when we analyse the data, so no-one else will know which response is yours.

Probation staff will read your replies, so they will know if you write a comment on the survey which they feel puts you or anyone else at any risk and in some cases this may lead to them sharing information with others to protect the public or to help you to get treatment or support.

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. As your participation is anonymous it will not be possible to withdraw your data after you have done the survey.

Where will my data be stored?

The data will be stored securely at the University in a password protected file. Only the researchers will have access to it. Hard copies of the surveys will be kept in a locked metal filing cabinet. The anonymised 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 written up as research journal articles, and a summary will be sent to display in probation offices including a link to the project website (**WEB ADDRESS**). Results may also be shared in other ways like presentations, blogs, and by social media. It will not be possible to identify individual people that have taken part in these reports and presentations.

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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