Information Sheet
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Developing Quality Indicators to Support Health Improvements in People on Probation

We would like to invite you to take part in a University research study about making quality indicators to support good practice in addressing the health and social are needs of people on probation. This will mean taking part in a focus group to discuss what these indicators could measure and look like based on your experience of being on probation and accessing health and/or social care. Health includes physical and mental health, and by social care we mean things like help with washing, dressing, housework, and taking medication.

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?

Quality indicators are used to measure whether standards for care are being met. They are used across the NHS, including in prisons. They tell us about where things are working well, and where improvements are needed to make sure that people get the care that they need.

For example, in prisons there is a standard that says that people coming into prison should be tested for blood-borne viruses. This is measured using quality indicators like the percentage of people entering prison that are tested for blood-borne viruses, and the number of people that are diagnosed and treated for blood-borne viruses in prisons.

People on probation sometimes struggle to access care, or find that services are not available that meet their needs. We want you to share your views and experiences in a focus group so that we can find out about:

- Your experiences of health or social care
- What you think probation should know about your health, and
- What you think really good health and social care looks like

This will help us to decide which topics it is important to have quality indicators for, and what they should look like.

Why me?

You have been asked to take part because you have been on probation and have an interest in health.

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 take part in a focus group. This will be a small group of people that have been on probation, and will be led by research staff and other people that have been on probation. They will ask the group questions about what it was like when they have accessed health or social care, what they think probation should know about their health, and what they think really good health and social care looks like. We think the group will last around an hour to an hour and a half. It could be upsetting to think about times when you have tried to access services in the past, so remember that you do not need to tell us anything too personal, or answer any questions that you don't want to. Just tell us things that you think are important for us to measure to help people on probation to get the care that they need.

The focus group will take place either face-to-face or online through something like Microsoft Teams. It will be digitally recorded, and we will type out what was said afterwards. We will not use your name, we will replace it with a different name or a number. This means people that were not at the group will not know which answers were yours.

What are the risks and benefits of taking part?

You do not need to tell us anything too personal or upsetting. If you do get upset for some reason then you can take a break and we can put you in touch with the Samaritans if you wish. We don't think this is very likely to happen though. You will also be given a debrief sheet that lists other sources of support. The benefits are that you are helping researchers to understand what the most important things to measure are to help people on probation to get the care that they need. 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. We will replace your name when we type out what was said in the focus group so people that were not at the focus group will not know which answers were yours.

If you say something in the focus group which we feel puts you or anyone else at any risk, we will discuss this with you first, and may have to report this to the appropriate persons.

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 focus group.

Where will my data be stored?

The data will be stored securely at the university. Only the research team (including Revolving Doors Agency) 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 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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