

**Information sheet for health and social care professionals who support parents with learning disabilities**

**Understanding and improving support for people with learning disabilities who are pregnant or caring for a baby**

Principal investigator: Dr Anna Cox

**Introduction**

We are a group of experienced researchers from the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences at the University of Surrey. We would like to invite you to take part in a service evaluation study. Before you decide whether you would like to take part it is important for you to understand why this study is being conducted and what it is going to involve. Please take time to read through this information sheet carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you need further information.

**The purpose of the study**

This study seeks to improve the care given to parents with learning disabilities. We aim to do this by creating a resource to support the health and social care workforce to meet the needs of parents with learning disabilities.

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

We are inviting you to take part in this study because you are a health and social care professional working in England, who has offered support to someone with a learning disability who is pregnant or caring for a baby in the last 24 months. We would like to hear about your experience of delivering care to people with learning disabilities and what you perceive as the challenges and opportunities to delivering care well.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, you are under no obligation to take part at all. If you do decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to leave the study at any time. You can ask us any questions before you decide.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

We would like to ask you some questions about the care given to parents with learning disabilities. We want to find out what good support they receive and what you think needs to be improved and what would help you to do this. If you decide to take part in the study, we

would like to interview you at a time convenient to you. You can choose whether this interview is via telephone or an online audio-visual connection (e.g. Skype or Zoom). With your consent, the audio content of the interview will be recorded. It is expected the interviews will last approximately 45 minutes.

If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form.

### **What are the possible benefits and risks of taking part?**

By taking part in this evaluation, participants will have contributed to the development of a toolkit for the maternity services workforce, which may help people with a learning disability get better support in the future when pregnant or caring for a baby.

There are no known risks for health and social care professionals taking part in this research.

### **How is the project being funded?**

The project is being funded by Health Education England.

This service evaluation has been given a favourable ethical opinion by the University of Surrey's Ethics Committee.

### **What if there is a problem?**

If you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of this evaluation you can contact Dr Anna Cox (Project Lead) or her Head of School, Professor Melaine Coward using the details below for further advice and information:

Dr Anna Cox, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH

Email: [a.cox@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:a.cox@surrey.ac.uk) Phone: 01483 684626

Professor Melaine Coward, Head of School, Health Sciences, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH

Email: [m.coward@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:m.coward@surrey.ac.uk) Phone: 01483 686693

The University has in force the relevant insurance policies which apply to this service evaluation. If you wish to complain or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been treated during the course of this study, then you should follow the instructions given above.

### **Who should I contact for further information?**

If you have any questions or require more information about this service evaluation, please contact me using the following contact details:

Dr Treena Parsons, Research Fellow, School of Health Sciences, University of Surrey, 30 Priestley Road, Surrey Research Park, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7YH

Phone 01483 684563

Email: [c.parsons@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:c.parsons@surrey.ac.uk)

### **Who is handling my data?**

The University of Surrey, as the sponsor, will act as the 'Data Controller' for this study. We will process your personal data on behalf of the controller and are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. This information may include your name and contact details, which are regarded as 'personal data'.

### **What will happen to my data?**

As a publicly-funded organisation, we have to ensure when we use identifiable personal information from people who have agreed to take part in research, this data is processed fairly and lawfully and is done so on the basis of public interest. This means that when you agree to take part in this study, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the study.

All project data related to the administration of the project, (e.g. consent form) will be held for at least 6 years and all research data for at least 10 years in accordance with University policy. Your personal data will be held and processed in the strictest confidence, and in accordance with current data protection regulations.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. You are free to withdraw your consent at any time during the study without giving any reason and without being disadvantaged in any way. Furthermore, you are able to withdraw your data up to 3 weeks after the telephone interview. You can find out more about how we use information at <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/information-management/data-protection> and/or by contacting [dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk).

### **What will happen to the results of the study?**

We will produce a final report summarising the main findings. You can request a summary of this report by ticking the relevant box on the consent form or emailing [t.parsons@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:t.parsons@surrey.ac.uk)

We also plan to disseminate the findings through publication and conferences.

### **Will my data be used for future research?**

When you agree to take part in a study, the information we collect may be provided to researchers running other research studies in this organisation and in other organisations. These organisations may be universities, NHS organisations or companies involved in research in this country or abroad. Your information will only be used by organisations and researchers to conduct research and processed on the basis of public interest. This information will not identify you and will not be combined with other information in a way that could identify you. The information will only be used for the purpose of research, and cannot be used to contact you or affect you. It will not be used to make decisions about future services available to you, such as insurance.

### **What if I want to complain about the way data is handled?**

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer Suzie Mereweather who will investigate the matter

(dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk). If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

### **Limits to confidentiality**

Confidentiality will be respected unless there are compelling and legitimate reasons for this to be breached. If this was the case, we would normally inform you first of any decisions that might limit confidentiality.

### **What do I do next if I am interested in taking part?**

You can contact Dr Treena Parsons to ask any questions about the study, and if you decide to proceed, arrange a time for a telephone interview:

Telephone: 01483 684563 or email: [c.parsons@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:c.parsons@surrey.ac.uk)

**Thank you for taking the time to read this Information Sheet**