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**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET (Version 1; 21.02.2024)**

**Study title**

Understanding gambling behaviour among people with learning disabilities from a supporters’ perspective

**What is the purpose of the study?**

We are interested in talking to people who care for, or support, people with learning disabilities that have participated in gambling. We would like to ask you questions about gambling behaviour, gambling-related harm, and the support and treatment that is available for people with learning disabilities.

The purpose of this study is to better understand gambling behaviour among this group. This includes both positive and negative impacts, and will discuss ways in which people with learning disabilities may be exposed to a greater risk of harm from gambling and what can be done to reduce those risks. It is hoped that the findings from this study will consequently be used to improve education and treatment for people with learning disabilities and their supporters.

**Why have I been chosen?**

You are eligible to take part in the research study if you meet **one** of these criteria:

* Care for or support an adult family member or friend with a learning disability or borderline learning disability (who has participated in gambling)
* Are a paid carer for an adult with a learning disability or borderline learning disability (who has participated in gambling)
* Are employed in another role that involves supporting people with learning disabilities, at least one of whom is an adult who has participated in gambling

**Gambling** activities include: buying lottery tickets, buying scratch cards, playing on fruit or slot machines, playing bingo, betting on horse races, dog races, sport (such as football), or other events (such as TV programs), betting informally with friends or family, playing casino games, playing poker, or gambling online.

You must also be:

* Over the age of 18
* Live in England

**Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a digital consent form.

There will be no penalty at work or otherwise if you decline to take part in the study, as this research is entirely distinct from your place of employment.

**What if I change my mind about taking part?**

If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw for up to two weeks after the interview, without giving a reason. To do this, you will be asked to provide your unique identification code that you created when filling out the consent form – this will be used to match your responses to the demographic questions and your interview recording/transcripts. You will need to give this code to the researcher if you wish to withdraw your data.

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

If you decide to take part, you will be invited to take part in an interview which will last between 30 – 45 minutes and will involve talking about gambling.

The questions will be about gambling behaviour, the risk factors that you think might increase the risk of people with learning disabilities experiencing gambling-related harm, as well as the availability and suitability of gambling support and treatment.

Once you have completed the consent form, the researcher will contact you via email to arrange a convenient time and location for the interview. The study will be conducted either in-person, or online (through Microsoft Teams or Zoom) depending on your preference and location. For remote/online interviews, I will ask you for a contact telephone number as a back-up to allow me to contact you if we have any connection issues on the day. The interview will also be recorded so that the researcher can listen back to what you have said.

**What are the potential benefits and risks of taking part?**

Taking part in the study will allow us to better understand gambling among people with learning disabilities. It is hoped that the findings from the study will be used to change gambling policy or improve support and treatment, to improve the experiences of people with learning disabilities.

If you decide to take part in the study, you will also receive a £15 gift voucher upon completion, as a thank you for your time.

There are no risks to you in taking part outside of those you would experience in everyday life. However, by taking part, you may remember things that you may find upsetting. If this occurs, the researcher will ask you if you want to continue to participate in the interview, and any decision that you make will be respected.

**Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

Yes. All the information that you provide for this study will be kept confidential. After taking part in the interview, the recording will be kept for two weeks before being typed up as a transcript with identifying details changed or removed. The audio recording will be deleted once the transcript has been created and checked. The audio recording and transcription of the interview will be stored on a password protected computer at the University, and will only be accessed by the researchers. You will not be identifiable in any publication as the data will be grouped together, and your data will have a pseudonym attached if any direct quotes are used.

The anonymised transcript will be stored for a period of 10 years.

However, if any safeguarding issues are raised in the interview (i.e. if you share anything that suggests you or someone else may be at risk of serious harm), this information may be shared with relevant organisations.

**What will happen at the end of the research study?**

The findings from this study will be included in the researcher’s PhD thesis and may separately be published in an academic journal or presented at conferences.

You can also ask the researchers to talk through the findings from the study, if you wish. You can do this by emailing Chloe Francis, who will arrange this with you once the study is complete.

Chloe’s email: c.e.francis@wlv.ac.uk

**Contact for further information**

You are encouraged to keep a copy of this information sheet for your information.

Chloe Francis is the main researcher on the project, and she will conduct the interview. If you would like to ask any questions before deciding whether to take part, you can contact Chloe directly.

Chloe’s email: c.e.francis@wlv.ac.uk

**What if I have a problem or concern?**

If you have a problem or concern, please speak to the researcher in the first instance, who will do their best to answer your questions.

You can also contact the project supervisor, Dr Joanne Lloyd: Joanne.Lloyd@wlv.ac.uk

If you wish to raise concerns regarding research being undertaken by the University you may wish to contact the research integrity leads in the first instance.

Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research & Knowledge Exchange – Professor Prashant Pillai, MBE p.pillai@wlv.ac.uk

Or the administrative lead and Research Integrity Manager – Jill Morgan J.Morgan4@wlv.ac.uk.

For more information regarding research integrity at the University please visit https://www.wlv.ac.uk/research/research-policies-procedures--guidelines/research-integrity/

Alternatively, the University of Wolverhampton has incorporated its policies and procedures for Anti-Bribery, Staff Interests, Public Interests, Fraud, and Whistleblowing into one Transparency Policy (https://www.wlv.ac.uk/about-us/governance/legal-information/corporat e-compliance/transparency/). Please report any concerns to: transparency@wlv.ac.uk

If you have any queries, concerns or believe that your Personal Data is being handled in a manner which is contrary to statutory requirements, you may wish to contact the University of Wolverhampton’s Data Protection Officer via dataprotection@wlv.ac.uk or complain to the ICO

**Signposting for gambling support and treatment**

If you would like to talk to someone about your own, or someone elses gambling, you can contact the free National Gambling Helpline on: **0808 802 0133****.**

The GambleAware website (<https://www.begambleaware.org>) also contains information on where to find help for both you and somebody else.

Easy-read documents on where to find help for gambling, and advice for gambling safely are available on request.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has received approval from the University of Wolverhampton Psychology Ethics Committee.

Thank you.