

Participant Information Sheet - Surveys

Understanding the impact of service children's transitions in education

You are being invited to take part in the evaluation *Understanding the impact of service children's transitions in education*. Before you decide if you wish to take part in this evaluation it is important for you to understand and consider what the evaluation is about, why it is being conducted, and what you will be asked to do. Please read this information sheet carefully before you decide if you wish to take part. Contact details are provided at the bottom of this sheet should you wish to discuss this further and/or if you have any additional questions.

What is the evaluation study about and what is the purpose?

The aim of this project is to investigate and highlight the educational risks and benefits associated with service children moving between schools. This project will explore the wide range of challenges which permeate the educational life course of service children and how transitions are influenced by mobility. From this evaluation we aim to produce a guide drawing on best practice examples, with recommendations generated from awareness of the current problems and built on the lived experience of service families and in particular service children. Responses are welcomed from those who are currently serving or a partner of someone currently serving in addition to veterans or partners of veterans who have had a child in education during that period of service.

Who is doing the evaluation?

The principal investigator for this study is Professor Alan Finnegan from the University of Chester. Alan is a veteran who served in the British Army for nearly 30 years.

Why have you been invited?

You have been invited because you indicated that you might be interested in taking part in an online survey as a service parent with a child in full time education.

Do I have to take part in this evaluation?

You are under no obligation to take part in this evaluation and your involvement is entirely voluntary. However, if you do decide to take part participants will be required to complete a consent form at the start of the survey. Please make sure you have read all the relevant information before you consent to take part. If you do decide to take part, you may withdraw from the survey without reason at any time up to the point of submitting your answers. You also have the option to contact Professor Alan Finnegan

(a.finnegan@chester.ac.uk) and withdraw your data up until the 30th of November 2024.

What happens if I don't take part in the evaluation study?

If you choose not to participate, nothing will happen.

What will it involve?

Participants will be asked to complete an online survey which should take approximately fifteen minutes. Any participants who wish to take part but do not have access to a computer should contact the researcher to obtain a paper copy and a pre-paid envelope. Other accessible versions are available on request. Contact details can be found at the bottom of this information sheet in the section 'any questions?' There are no right or wrong answers to these questions, and you should answer based on your experiences and opinions. All answers will be collated anonymously, and no personal data will be used or published in the evaluation such as your name or contact details. At the end of the survey participants will be asked if they wish to take part in a one-to-one interview. You are under no obligation to do so. Those who do wish to take part, however, will be asked to provide contact details to enable the lead researcher to arrange a time convenient to both of you to complete the interview.

Can I use help to complete the survey?

You can seek support from someone else, such as family or friends but the decision about what to share, or not share, is yours.

Will I be paid to participate in this evaluation?

No. You will not receive any fees, incentives or compensation (gift) to participate in the evaluation.

What are the possible risks of participating in the evaluation study?

There are no immediate disadvantages to taking part in this evaluation. All responses will be anonymised, and no in-depth personal information will be discussed unless you wish to disclose such information.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no direct advantages for participants of this evaluation however your contribution in this evaluation will provide valuable insights into the experiences of service children's transitions in education and will help us understand in further detail the specific challenges experienced by service parents and children. On completion of this evaluation a best practice example guide will be produced for

dissemination to interested parties such as Government organisations, schools, Local Authorities, and third-party organisations.

What will happen to the information I give you?

All information and responses gathered during this evaluation will be in accordance with the University of Chester data management and research policies and the UK General Data Protection Regulation. All your personal data will be kept in a secure location, will not be distributed to others, and will only be available to the Principal Investigator and the researchers at the Westminster Centre for Research in Veterans. Direct responses and quotations will be used in this evaluation and in some instances, quotations will be published. All responses will be anonymised with the use of a pseudonym throughout this evaluation, and no identifiable information will be published. On completion of data analysis, all results will be written up into a final report. This anonymous information will be used for reports, scientific publications and presentations. However, none of these will mention any of your personal details.

Who is organising and funding the evaluation?

The evaluation is funded by The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust and is organised by researchers at the University of Chester's Westminster Centre for Research in Veterans.

If I participate in the evaluation, will my privacy be protected?

At no point will your personal details be shared or replicated in the written findings with others and all personal information will be destroyed on completion of the evaluation. Data will be stored for a period of 10 years.

What if something goes wrong?

If you wish to complain and felt that you had to participate in this evaluation or have any other concerns about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated during this evaluation study then please contact: Professor Angela Simpson, Faculty of Health and Social Care, University of Chester, Wheeler Building, Castle Drive, Chester, Cheshire, United Kingdom, CH1 1SL by email at angela.simpson@chester.ac.uk

The University does not accept responsibility for any harm experienced apart from that which is proven to have been caused through its negligence. In the unlikely event that you experience harm through your participation in the evaluation, and this is due to the negligent conduct of the researchers, then you may have grounds to bring legal action. If you choose to bring such action, you may incur legal costs.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet. Before signing the Informed Consent Form, please discuss any questions with a member of the research team (contact details are provided below). These questions can refer to anything and especially to any points you did not understand or were not clear on. The research team will try to answer questions within 2 working days from submission. If your questions were not fully addressed and/or if you do not understand the answer, please continue to ask until you are satisfied with the response.

What happens if my response indicates a serious risk of harm to myself or others?

The anonymous nature of the questionnaire means that no one except the researchers at the University of Chester will see your answers, and you cannot be identified by the answers you have given. If you require support, you can contact the military charity SSAFA at

<https://www.ssafa.org.uk/>

0800 260 6767

Any questions?

If you have any questions, please email the Research Team

Dr Gemma Carr, Researcher Gemma.Carr@chester.ac.uk

or

WCVeterans@chester.ac.uk

If you agree to participate in this evaluation, please agree to your consent at the start of the online survey before accessing the online questions.