Practitioner Decision-Making in Inpatient Adolescent Mental Healthcare

Participant Information Sheet

Invitation:

You are being invited to take part in a research project investigating the practical implementation of the law governing adolescent mental healthcare in inpatient settings.

Before you decide whether you will take part in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation in the study will involve.

Please read this Information Sheet carefully before deciding whether or not you would like to take part. If you wish, you can discuss the project with others before making your decision. You are also welcome to contact the researcher directly if anything is unclear or if you have further questions that are not answered in this Information Sheet.

What is the purpose of the study?

The study aims to investigate how practitioners navigate the legal framework governing decision-making about admission and treatment of children and young people in inpatient mental health facilities, with a view to informing future law and policy in this area.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen because you are a health and social care professional with experience working with children and young people in inpatient settings or dealing with referrals and decision-making around admission and treatment and applications under the Mental Health Act 1983. I am specifically looking to speak to Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists, Nurses and Social Workers working within CAMHS inpatient services and Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs).

If you are unsure whether you fit the criteria but are interested in taking part, please contact the researcher directly at the email address below to find out more.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part in this research is entirely voluntary: it is up to you whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form in advance of the interview and to keep this information sheet. You can still withdraw from the study at any time, even during the interview and up to 28 days after the interview. You do not have to give a reason for your withdrawal.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be invited to take part in a one-to-one research interview with the researcher, to be arranged at a time that is convenient for you. This will take place over the online video conferencing platform Zoom. The interview will be semi-structured, which means that there will be some set topics of discussion but there will also be space for some general discussion. In the interview, you will be asked about your experience of working in child and adolescent inpatient units or making decisions around admission, treatment and discharge. You will not be asked to discuss specific cases but rather the discussion will be focused on your work in general and your day-to-day experience of decision-making within the legal framework.

The interview itself will usually last for around an hour, with some time set aside at the beginning of the interview for you to raise any outstanding questions and to check that the technology is working. You will be asked to sign a consent form in advance of the interview and to return this over email, but you will also be given an opportunity to orally confirm your consent before the interview. There will be some time at the end of the interview for you to ask any follow up questions. Overall, the whole process will most likely take around 90 minutes. The interview will be recorded through the Zoom recording function for the purpose of being transcribed. The transcripts will be anonymised and any identifiable data will be removed.

Are there possible disadvantages and/or risks in taking part?

You may find some of the topics upsetting in that you may have to discuss potentially stressful experiences or events. If you find the experience distressing, you will be able to let the researcher know to stop the interview and take a break, or stop taking any further part in the study altogether.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Although there may be no direct benefits to you for taking part, you may find it interesting to discuss your views on your work and the law/policy in this area.

What if something goes wrong?

If something has gone wrong or you wish to make a complaint, please contact the University of Bristol Research Governance Team at research-governance@bristol.ac.uk.

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All your personal data will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone outside of the study. The only exception to this is if a court orders it to be released or, if you choose to disclose information about child safety, criminal activity, or causing serious harm to yourself or others, this may be shared with appropriate authorities.

Neither your name or any other identifiable details will be reported in any research papers or other outputs from the study. The information you give during your interview will also be anonymised, so it cannot be traced back to you personally. The eventual PhD thesis and research papers from the study may include some quotations from interview transcripts, but these will be anonymous, and any identifying features will be removed.

How will my data be stored?

Identifiable personal data and anonymised study data will be stored securely in separate password protected digital files in accordance with the University of Bristol's research governance policy. Anonymised research data will be archived upon completion of the study and thus be accessible to other researchers upon request.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

The results of the research project will form part of the researcher's PhD thesis, which will be deposited and openly accessible both in print and online in the University of Bristol upon successful completion. They may also be published in academic journals or presented at conferences. If you wish, you can be notified of any publications arising from the research.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The study is organised by Martha Scanlon, a PhD student at the University of Bristol. The research is being supervised by Professor Judy Laing, Professor Sheelagh McGuinness, who are based at University of Bristol Law School, and Dr Suzanne Doyle-Guilloud, who is based at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy at the National University of Ireland Galway. Funding is provided through a Wellcome Trust studentship as part of the BABEL (Balancing Best Interests in Healthcare Ethics and Law) project at the University of Bristol. The Wellcome Trust is a charity that aims to improve health and wellbeing.

Ethical review of the study

This study has gone through ethical review by the University of Bristol Law Research Ethics Committee.

Who can I contact for further information?

If you there is anything that you do not understand or if you would like more information, please contact Martha Scanlon at ms12028@bristol.ac.uk

I would like to take part. What should I do?

Please complete this online form to provide us with your contact details or contact the researcher directly at the email above.

If you have any difficulties accessing the form, please email the above contact.

Once completed, the researcher will be in contact with you and you will have a chance to ask any further questions you have about the study, and arrange a date for an interview or take further time to think about whether you want to take part or not before the researcher contacts you again.