



Information Sheet for Dental Professionals

Title of Project: Oral Health Care for Autistic Children and Young People

You are invited to participate in the above study. Please read the information sheet carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

Why do we need to do this research?

Autistic children and young people have a higher risk of having untreated tooth decay and gum disease and are more likely to have treatment under general anaesthetic. It is important that all children and young people are given the best chance to have good dental health. We need to do this research to find out more about the factors that influence how autistic children and young people care for their teeth and access dental care. Also to learn more about the factors which impact provision of care to this patient group.

Who is carrying out this project?

This project is being carried out by the University of Plymouth who are collaborating with a team from the University of Manchester, University of Sheffield and the Bradford Institute for Health Research which is led by the University of Leeds.

What does the project aim to do?

Our research aims to find out more about autistic children and young peoples' experience of looking after their teeth and of going to the dentist and how it could be improved. We are also interested in finding out about dental health professionals' experiences of providing dental care to, and supporting the oral health of, autistic children and young people. Importantly we wish to find out from dental professionals how they can be best supported to care for this patient group.

Who can take part?

Anyone who is involved in the provision of dental care or promotion of oral health can take part in this study. This include dentists, dental hygienists, dental nurses, oral health educators, and other members of the wider dental team such as receptionists.

What will happen if I decide to take part in the project?

Taking part in the study will involve an interview at a convenient time for you (including evenings and/or weekends). It will take about 30-45 minutes and will take place online (using Zoom). Alternatively, a telephone interview can be arranged. We will invite you to talk to the researcher about your experiences of providing dental care and oral health support to autistic children and young people. The interview will be audio recorded and the recording transcribed. Anything that would identify you such as names and places will be removed from the document so that it is anonymous.



Do I have to take part?

Your participation is entirely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time before, during or after the interview date, without providing any reason for that and without this affecting your practice or legal rights. You can withdraw from the study by email or verbally. Please note that when your interview is transcribed it will be anonymised and given a unique identifier. At this point it will not be possible to withdraw your data as the results will not be traceable to you. All anonymised data will be included in the study.

What are the possible benefits?

This study will add to local and national knowledge about oral health behaviours and improving access to dental care for autistic children and people. It will also add to knowledge of the factors influencing the provision of dental care and how to better support dental health professionals in caring for this patient group.

What are the possible disadvantages?

We do not expect there are any disadvantages or risks to you. You will be asked to give up some of your free time to take part. We will arrange the interview at a time to suit you. We understand that there are many demands on your time and there is some inconvenience in taking part in the interview. You are free at any stage to withdraw from the interview or take time out if you wish.

Will I be paid to take part?

You will not be paid to take part.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Any personal information which is collected about you (e.g. email address, telephone/mobile number, address) will be kept strictly confidential and will not be disclosed outside the Plymouth research team. Anonymised transcripts of the interview may be shared with our research collaborators (University of Sheffield, University of Manchester, University of Leeds and the Bradford Institute for Health Research). These research documents will contain no names or other personal identifiers. No personal information will be shared. Any information we collect about you, including any consent forms that you complete, will be stored securely either in a locked filing cabinet or in a secure computer and will only be used for the purposes of the research. Personal identifiable data will only be stored for the duration of the study. Anonymised data will be held for a period of 10 years. You have the right to check the accuracy of the data held about you and to correct any errors. Procedures for the handling, processing, storage and destruction of your data will be compliant with General



Data Protection Regulation and the University of Plymouth Research Data Policy and Data Protection policy. Our research collaborators, working at different universities, will follow their organisation's policies for safely storing your anonymised study data.

Are there any circumstances in which confidentiality would be broken?

The researcher has a duty to take steps to safeguard children if they have concerns for their welfare. If this happens, the researchers will act in line with University of Plymouth safeguarding policy, a copy of which is available on request.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The findings from the research will be shared with others through a report, presentations to participants, local interested parties and national conferences/meetings and through publications in professional/academic journals. If you would like a copy of any publication or a summary of the results, please let the researcher know. Some of the quotes from your interview may be used to illustrate the research findings.

Any quotes used will be anonymous and names will not be used. You will not be identified in any report or publication arising from the study.

Approval/review

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Plymouth Faculty of Health Research and Integrity Committee, a research ethics committee.

What if there is a problem?

If you have concerns about any part of the study you should speak to the researcher, who will do their best to answer your questions. If you have any concerns which you would like to discuss with someone else, please contact:

Professor Robert Witton
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Chief Executive Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise CIC
Consultant in Dental Public Health
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If your concern is not resolved after talking to Professor Witton, you can contact the Research Administrator to the Faculty of Health Research Ethics and Integrity Committee at: hhsethics@plymouth.ac.uk.

Study details and documents

Further study details and documents, including the on-line consent form can be found at:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/access-to-dental-care-for-children-and-adolescents>



The consent form also be accessed [via this link](#).

Researcher contact details

Please contact the researcher by email, phone or text if you would like to take part in this study, or if you have any questions or concerns:

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Thank you for reading this information