



Social Outcomes and Early Life Experience 2 Year Follow-Up Study Participant Information Sheet for Adoptive Parents

Researchers from the **University of Manchester** would like to invite you and your child to participate in a new follow-up for the *Social Outcomes and Early Life Experience (SOCiAL) study*. Please take some time to read the following information carefully and talk it over with your child, family and friends if you wish. Please don't hesitate to contact us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like further information. Full contact details are provided on the last page of this information sheet.

What is the Purpose of the Study?

The SOCiAL Study investigated the social outcomes of 60 Adopted children and 57 comparison children living with their birth parents. SOCiAL identified a large range of outcomes in relation to different early experiences, highlighting a need for further understanding of the long-term consequences of childhood adversity. This will help us to develop targeted approaches to support for children and families who need it most.

We would now like to re-visit the families who took part in SOCiAL to find out what changes may have taken place over the last two years and further explore experiences of adoption and post-adoption support.

We are inviting all children and families who took part in the SOCiAL study to take part in this two year follow-up study.

Do we have to take part?

No - your family **DOES NOT** have to take part. If you do decide to take part, you are free to change your mind and **withdraw** from the study at any point without giving any reason. If you would like, we will destroy any information that you have already provided.

What will happen if we decide to take part?

1. Home visit

A researcher will arrange to visit you and your child at a time that suits you all best. The visit can take place in your own home or at the University of Manchester. During the visit we will ask you to complete some questionnaires about your child's social behaviour and about your current well-being. We will also complete a variety of assessments with your child. These assessments will show us how your child thinks about social interactions i.e. how they empathise with other people, if they can

recognise emotions in others and how they understand friendship. We will also take some physical measurements of your child including height, head circumference and facial features. **The visit will take about 1 hour.**

2. Telephone Interview

We will arrange to conduct an interview with you over the telephone at a time that is convenient to you. We will ask you some questions about your child's social behaviour, their prenatal experiences and about your own experiences of adoption and accessing post-adoption support services. **The interview will take approximately 1.5 hours.**

3. Online Questionnaire

We will ask you to complete a questionnaire on the internet (on a secure website which is accessible to the researchers only) or over the phone with a researcher if you prefer. The questionnaire will provide us with information about symptoms of common developmental and mental health problems. It will take about 50 minutes to complete at any time that is convenient for you and in as many sittings as you like.

4. Teacher Questionnaires

We will ask permission to contact your child's teacher to complete some short questionnaires about your child's social behaviour, adaptation and progress in school. We may also arrange to observe your child at school for 10 minutes during playtime so that we can see how they interact with their classmates. This will be done as discreetly as possible. The school observation is optional - please leave box 5 on the consent form blank if your child would prefer not to be observed or contact the research team via any of the methods below if you have any questions.

A small number of participants will be invited to complete some further assessment with Professor Jonathan Green at the University of Manchester. You will be reimbursed for any travel expenses if you do choose to attend this assessment. We will contact you with further information about the assessment if you are invited to take part in this aspect of the study.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The results of this research may help to inform future studies and, hopefully, the development of interventions for children who experience social difficulties. You may also choose to receive a report on the findings of you and your child's personal assessments. This may help you to identify areas of change in your child's development over the previous 2 years.

Will our participation be confidential?

- All of the information that you provide us with will be kept completely CONFIDENTIAL and will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team.
- The only exception to this rule of confidentiality is if you or your child disclose information which indicates that they may be at risk of harm.
- You will be allocated with an identification number which will appear on all of your information so that it cannot be identified as yours by anyone other than the research team.

- Your name, your child's name or any other identifiable information will not appear on any reports of results that we produce.

What will happen to our information?

The University of Manchester has strict policies and procedures concerning the use and storage of personal information:

- All information will be stored in locked cabinets in a special office in a secure, access restricted building at the University of Manchester.
- Any personal information (i.e. your name, address and phone number) will be stored on a secure, encrypted database which will be located on a password protected hard drive on the University of Manchester server. This will be accessible to members of the research team only and will not be stored on laptops or other portable storage devices.

If you have any questions about what will happen to your information please don't hesitate to contact Catherine Kay on 0161 306 7967 or Catherine.kay@manchester.ac.uk

What will happen if I or my child does not want to complete an assessment or any other part of this study?

It is up to you and your child to decide whether or not to take part. If you do, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. Even after you have given us your consent to take part in an interview you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. It is not possible to say in advance whether something may come up in the interviews or assessments that someone may find upsetting or difficult. However, if you do find a topic or question upsetting then you will not have to answer it. We will remind children that they are free to tell us, at any time, if they do not wish to answer a particular question, or that they do not wish to continue. It is up to you and your child, how much or how little information you want to share with us.

What will happen to the results of the study?

We hope that the results of the study will be published in journals for professionals and researchers but also publications and newsletters for adoptive parents and children. The details of people who took part in the study will not be recognisable in any of these publications. All participants will receive a summary of the results within six months of end of the study.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This study is being completed by a team of researchers at the University Of Manchester Institute Of Brain, Behaviour and Mental Health led by Professor Jonathan Green and is being funded by the Waterloo Foundation. **All Researchers hold valid enhanced Criminal Record Bureau Checks.**

How do I take part?

A researcher will contact you soon to discuss the study with you. Once you have read all of the information provided, have asked any questions you may have and are happy that you and your family would like to take part, we will arrange to visit you at home to complete a consent form and conduct the assessments. You are under no obligation to take part in the study even when you have agreed to a researcher visit.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the study or you have any questions about it please contact:

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Thank you for taking the time to read this information