

Appendix three

Information sheet

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.

What is the research's purpose?

The purpose of this research is to explore parents' experience of parenting while they are involved in the Butterfly Programme. The research question asks: What values and purposes do parents bring to their parenting relationships and family life and how are these expressed in their daily lives, in their decisions and in their ordinary communication? I am also interested in whether parents experience change or development in this aspect of their lives through taking part in a group intervention?

Why have I been chosen?

You have recently agreed to take part in the Butterfly programme. I am asking all those taking part in your parent group if they would like to help in this research project.

Do I have to take part?

Involvement in the Project is voluntary. You are not obliged at all to take part. You may want to take part in the Butterfly Programme and not the research. This would be absolutely fine.

What will happen to me if I take part? What do I have to do?

If you agree to take part in the project I will ask to meet with you three times over the next six months to talk about your experience parenting and in the programme. We can meet in your home or at another venue convenient to you, at a time convenient to you. We will be seeing each other regularly, working together throughout this time as I am very involved in the programme. The research project will involve three extra conversations with me.

What are the possible risks or disadvantages to me if I do take part? What are the possible benefits?

While we work together on the programme and in the research we will always respect your choices as to what you want to talk about and share with us and in the group. Sometimes thinking and talking about difficulties in your life can be unsettling. However, it is our belief, that talking things through difficult or upsetting situations with another person who listens carefully and responds sensitively can help parents on our programme to see a way forward, or to feel stronger. So, while taking part in the research project may bring no immediate benefit to you it may provide additional opportunities for you to reflect upon your experience in the programme, and this may be helpful in itself.

What happens if the research study stops earlier than expected?

If the project stops earlier than expected you will be informed and the reasons explained.

What if something goes wrong?

If you have any concerns about the project or your involvement in it at any time you could contact myself (Tel 07904128473) or Professor Tom Billington, School of Education, Sheffield University (Tel:01142228177)

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

The information you share will be stored in anonymous form. This means that your name and other personal details will not be attached. When the project is written up your name and any identifying details will be changed so as to protect your privacy completely. You can of course tell others, including any other members of the group that you are taking part but we will keep everything you say in the research project confidential. Nothing will be shared with other professionals in the programme or other parents. The only exception to this is if I am concerned for you or someone in your family's safety. If this occurred I would discuss what would be helpful and appropriate action with you.

Will I be recorded and how will the recorded media be used?

The audio recordings of your activities made during this research will be used only for analysis. No other use will be made of them without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the original recordings. After the interviews have been typed up the recordings will be deleted.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

The results of this project will be written up and shared with my academic supervisor

and the university assessors. A copy of the written up project will then be made available in the university library. The results will be used to guide future practice in the Butterfly Programme. I hope the project will inform professionals generally about how parents experience parenting. In this way it might inform them as to how they can be useful and supportive to parents who request support. The results of this research may also inform future research in this area.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is being funded by the local authority I work for, Kirklees MBC, and partly by myself.

Who has ethically reviewed the project?

The project has been through the ethical review procedures of the School of Education, university of Sheffield.

Contact for further information?

If you would like further information about the research please contact me, Penny Fogg, Tel 07904128473

Along with this information sheet you will be provided with a copy of the signed consent form if you choose to take part in this project.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or to comment on the information provided on this sheet.