

## Participant Information Sheet

**Study title:** A qualitative study of interpersonal relationships prior to suicide attempt

You are being invited to take part in a research study. 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 before agreeing to participate. Contact details are available at the bottom of the page if anything is unclear or if you would like more information.

### Study purpose

The purpose of this study is to explore the role of interpersonal relationships in the context of a suicide attempt. The information collected here will help researchers and health professionals in understanding suicide risk and inform the developments of interventions to reduce risk.

### Why have I been invited?

Prior to being invited to the study, a risk and eligibility assessment must be completed with the researcher. This will be completed via an initial ten-minute screening call arranged after you make initial contact with the researcher. We will invite you to take part in the study if you indicate your interest in the study (by contacting the researchers using the contact information at the end of this document) and have completed the initial screening call during which you will have shown that you meet all study criteria (see below for details).

### Do I have to take part?

It is up to you whether you wish to take part and you are free to discontinue with the study at any time without giving a reason. If you do choose to take part, you will be asked to give your consent to participate before beginning the study.

### Eligibility

To take part in this study participants are required to:

- be at least 18 years of age;
- sufficient command of the English language;
- have engaged in a suicide attempt within the last five years;
- able to attend a one-off, face-to-face meeting with the researcher via video conferencing software (e.g. Zoom, Microsoft Teams)

Furthermore you have:

- not reported or indicated that you have a cognitive impairment or learning disability;
- not currently experiencing a suicidal crisis or psychotic episode.

### What do I need to do?

To participate in the study you must contact the lead researcher using the contact details provided here:

Heather McClelland

Telephone: 0141 211 0281 or (professional mobile telephone number to be confirmed)

Email: [heather.mcclelland@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:heather.mcclelland@glasgow.ac.uk)

The lead researcher will then arrange a brief telephone screening call with you to ensure eligibility to the study and answer questions you may have. You will be offered a copy of the screening call

questions prior to the phone call to ensure you are comfortable with the information being asked. Following the screening call, once both yourself and the researcher are satisfied with study participation, you will be invited to a one-off meeting with the lead researcher.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

A meeting will be arranged between yourself and the researcher via a video conferencing weblink (e.g. Zoom, Microsoft Teams). This meeting will last approximately 75 minutes. You will be asked to indicate your consent to participate in this study before answering some anonymised questions about your demographics and suicide. This will be followed by an informal conversation exploring your interpersonal experiences prior to your most recent suicide attempt which will be audio recorded using either an encrypted Dictaphone for in-person interviews, or built-in software for video conferencing. The interview will finish with a brief series of structured psychometric questions with multiple choice answers. The psychometric questions will be completed either on paper during the in-person interview, or you will be directed to a Glasgow University Survey Systems weblink if participating via video conferencing software.

### **What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking part?**

Participation may be of no direct benefit to you, however the information you provide will be helpful in understanding the role of interpersonal experiences prior to suicide behaviour. You will be compensated £25 in the form of Amazon vouchers for your time and travel for this research. Some of the topics we will ask you about in this survey may be distressing for some people, if you feel you would like to talk to someone about this we accompanied this Information Sheet with a list of organisations who can support you (see Support Services Sheet, Appendix F v1 24.02.2020).

### **Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

All information you provide during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. Your information will be stored securely at the University of Glasgow and destroyed ten years after the project ends. Any quotes we use from the information you provide will be used anonymously. During your participation in the study, if you indicate that you or someone else may be in imminent danger or harm, confidentiality may need to be broken to ensure the wellbeing of everyone. This is the only circumstance in which confidentiality will be broken and, where possible and appropriate, we will discuss with you directly before any further action is taken.

### **What will happen to my data?**

Any information you provide will be held in accordance with The General Data Protection Regulation (2018) at the University of Glasgow. To safeguard your rights, we will assign a randomly generated unique participant identifying number to your data, any personally identifiable information will be stored separately from any responses we gather. If you withdraw from the study we will retain any information we have collected about you until that point. Data in paper-form will be stored in locked filing cabinets in rooms held by the University of Glasgow and electronic data will be held in password-encrypted computers. All audio-recorded interviews will either be transcribed by the study research team or by a third-party transcription service (1<sup>st</sup> Class Secretarial) who have been used by the University of Glasgow for similar studies. Only the research team and study regulators, whose job it is to audit the project on behalf of the study Sponsor, will have access to your information. You can find out more about how we use your information by contacting the researcher on the contact details listed below.

Due to anonymity of the data storage methods and staff availability, we will not be able to provide individual participant results from the study. At the end of your participation within the study, we will offer you the opportunity to receive a copy of the final draft of the research paper once it

becomes available. If you would like a copy of the manuscript, your contact details will be retained for the purpose of sending you a copy of the paper, after which your contact information shall be deleted. If you decline a copy of the manuscript, your contact information shall be deleted immediately after study data collection has concluded. For full details on how your data is managed and who sees the information you provide, please see the Privacy Notice (appendix H v1 12.05.2020) which accompanies this document.

### **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

This study aims to recruit 10 participants. Following participant interviews, the data collected will be interpreted and contribute to a research thesis. The study (including recruitment and findings) may also be presented at relevant conferences and potentially published in an academic journal. All participants' data will be anonymised throughout and any quotes shall not be identifiable. During the interview, you will be offered the option of having a copy of the final research study manuscript for your own interest and records.

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

Compensation for participants is funded by the Suicidal Behaviour Research Lab located within the Institute of Mental Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been reviewed by the College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences Ethics Committee.

### **Further information**

If you would like further information or have any questions regarding the study and would like to speak to someone who is not closely involved in the research, you can contact the following research professional: Dr Katie Robb (tel.: 0141 211 0685 email: [Katie.Robb@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Katie.Robb@glasgow.ac.uk))

#### **Researcher contact details**

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#### **Supervisor contact details**

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Thank you for reading this information.