

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Study Title - How does coercive control impact women in the perinatal period? An exploration of women's lived experiences and midwives' views and experiences of support and recognition of coercive control.

Researcher - Eleanor Laidlaw Brown

You are being invited to take part in this study as a midwife who is currently providing care to women during their pregnancy. Before you decide to take part it is important that you understand why the research is being done, what it will involve and what will happen to data you provide.

Please take time to read the following information carefully. Please do not hesitate to ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information

WHAT IS THE STUDY ABOUT?

In my study, I have interviewed women about their experiences of coercive control as part of domestic violence and abuse during the perinatal period (pregnancy, birth and early parenting). I am now aiming to explore the experiences that midwives face when they are supporting women who have been coercively controlled. Once I have all the data from the in-depth interviews with both the women and midwives, I then plan to disseminate the results via a number of platforms including research papers to help health professionals recognise if a woman is experiencing coercive control in the perinatal period.

Victims of coercive control very often cannot see that they are in an environment of abuse especially when there is no physical abuse. This is because many of the tactics and behaviours used are very subtle and happens progressively over time and often in private in own homes. In addition, previous research has found gaps in support from professionals. If health professionals were better able to identify coercive control, they would then be able to help the victim recognise what was happening to them and then be able to offer support and refer on to specialist domestic violence and abusive agencies and services.

WHO IS THE TARGET AUDIENCE?

I am asking qualified midwives and final-year pre-registration midwifery students to participate. The research will consist of an individual semi-structured interview with

midwives to explore their views and experiences when supporting women who have experienced coercive control.

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, so please don't feel obliged to take part.

WHAT WILL I NEED TO DO?

You will be invited to take part in a conversation with myself so that I can understand your views, experiences and the challenges you face in supporting women around coercive control as part of domestic violence and abuse. There is no time limit to this conversation, but I anticipate it will take approximately 1 hour. The interviews will take place online via Microsoft Teams and will be recorded so that they can be typed up.

Anything you tell me will be kept confidential and anonymous. The only exception would be if I had a concern for someone's safety or a concern about possible poor practice that needed to be acted upon.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

No. You decide if you wish to take part. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to sign a consent form. A decision not to take part will not affect you in any way. You are free to withdraw from the research at any time without giving a reason. You can withdraw your data any time within one month of taking part, without giving a reason. After this time, the data will have been analysed and it will not be possible to remove the data. A decision to withdraw will not affect you in any way.

If you would be willing to take part, please can you email me at the address at the bottom of this information sheet.

WHO IS CONDUCTING THE RESEARCH?

I am a part time researcher at the University of Huddersfield working towards a PhD in Public Health. I work part time as a health visitor, I am a qualified midwife and I am self-funding my research role. I have been involved with domestic abuse services for the last 14 years and have provided education to health professionals.

WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE DATA?

Nobody outside the research team at the University of Huddersfield will have access to the data collected.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN THE DATA COLLECTED?

Personal data shared by participants in this research will be held confidentially by the University of Huddersfield in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.

The University is the Data Controller and is responsible for its secure management. The research team and transcribers are the data processors.

No information provided be shared in a way that would allow participants to be personally identified except where legal obligations would necessitate disclosure by the researchers to appropriate personnel.

The data will be securely stored for 10 years. It will then be safely destroyed.

Quotes used in the dissertation and any resulting book/article/report or other publication will be anonymised.

The conversations will be recorded to aid accuracy, these recordings will be retained for 10 years as part of the University standard retention period recommended.

The University of Huddersfield is the Data Controller. Complaints should be addressed to the University Solicitor (the Data Protection Officer) data.protection@hud.ac.uk.

Appeals can be made to the Information Commissioner's Office if a participant is not satisfied with the response from the University.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

This project has obtained ethical approval from the school of Human and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee at the University of Huddersfield.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet regarding my research.

Contact details

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