**Participant Information**

As an Educational Psychologist, you have been invited to take part in a research study exploring Educational Psychologists’ views and experiences of supporting young autistic people with Relationships and Sex Education. To help you decide whether you would like to take part it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research.  You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to tick a box to say you consent before moving on to the next page.

**What is the research about?**

This research project is being conducted by a third-year doctorate Trainee Educational Psychologist, and their supervisory team, at the University of Southampton. The research is interested in Educational Psychologists' views and experiences of supporting young autistic people with Relationships and Sex Education. It is exploratory and hopes to gain a better understanding of current practice within this area, as well as identify any opportunities or barriers within Educational Psychologists’ role.

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

If you choose to participate you will be asked to complete an online survey including several questions relating to your own experience and views towards Relationships and Sex Education and young autistic people. The survey should not take longer than 15-20 minutes and will include responding on a Likert scale in addition to a few open-ended questions. You will also be asked to provide some demographic information.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

Your views and experiences will support us to develop clarity around this topic. It is also hoped that the results of this study will be used to prompt reflections around current practice and to inform future training in order to support Educational Psychologists in approaching Relationships and Sex Education with young autistic people, their families and their schools.

**Are there any risks involved?**

While we do not foresee any particular distress or discomfort sharing your views and experiences, we encourage you to discuss any concerns with your line manager or supervisor if you experience any discomfort before and/or after the survey.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be anonymous, therefore you cannot be linked to your responses.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to the data for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to the data. All of these people have a duty to keep the data collected as part of this study strictly confidential.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You may choose to discontinue the survey for any reason at any time without your participation rights being affected.

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

Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

**Where can I get more information?**

If you have any further questions, please contact Alex Elliott (trainee Educational Psychologist) at [ale1g11@soton.ac.uk](mailto:ale1g11@soton.ac.uk).

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research.  This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer (data.protection@soton.ac.uk).

**Consent**

If you decide to withdraw from this study then the information already submitted may still be used for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the study only. All survey responses will be anonymous, therefore participants cannot withdraw their data once it has been submitted. Having read the participant information (12/03/2020, version 2) if you agree to take part in this research project and agree for your data to be used for the purpose of this study please continue to the next page.

**Thank you.**