

Pilot Randomised Study of Multi-Systemic Therapy

We are carrying out a study of families who come into contact with children's social care services in England and Wales. The study is to try to find out whether a new approach might help families in the future. The study is being run by The University of Kent and is funded by the Youth Endowment Fund.

What is this study about?

The study explores a new way of helping families who come are in contact with children's social care across a number of locations in England and Wales. The study will help us know if the new approach is better at helping families.

This leaflet is for you to keep. Please read it carefully. Please ask if there is anything that you do not understand, or you would like more information about, we can be contacted at mstcanproject@kent.ac.uk.

What will happen to families if they take part?

If they agree to take part, they will be asked to provide agreement in the form of a written consent. A computer will decide at random whether they receive the care as usual or the MST-CAN intervention.

MST-CAN Intervention

The new approach involves staff who have been specifically trained to offer therapy and support to families.

All families taking part in the study will be asked to fill questionnaires at the start of the study and again 9 months later. As a thank you we will give the family a £50 voucher at each stage they complete questionnaires, one £50 after completing the questionnaire at the start, another £50 after completing the questionnaire at nine months. The questionnaires explore behaviour and mental health. To get a clear understanding of what families think about the new approach we might ask them to take part in an interview with a researcher, but before we do, we will ask for permission, and they can say no if they want to.

Do I have to take part in the study?

No. It is up to you to decide.

We will describe the study, go through this information sheet with you and answer your questions. If you decide to take part in the study, one parent and one child from each family will be asked to sign a consent form.

You are free to change your mind at any time, up to the point where we delete any participant identifiable data from the data set; you will not need to give a reason. If you

decide not to take part in the study or want to withdraw your participation, it will not affect the support that you receive from children's social service or referrals to any other services.

Who will have access to my information?

All information collected about you during this research will be kept confidential. The only people who will be able to look at it will be the research team.

The study privacy notice provides information on what data we collect, why we collect it and how we store it. It can be accessed here

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/beacon-project/documents/>

All information will be stored on a password protected computer. After we have done the 9-month questionnaire we will remove any information that might identify you from our records. The data will stored at the University of Kent for 5 years (for written information) or 10 years (for electronic data). At the end of the study, this data, without anything that could identify you, will be archived by the organisation who is funding the study, the Youth Endowment Fund.

All staff and organisations involved in the research work to the same rules of confidentiality as doctors and nurses which can only be broken, without your consent, in very

exceptional circumstances. **Usually this is if the researcher sees or is told something which raises serious concern for your personal safety.**

Could I be at risk by taking part?

The research staff and organisations involved in this research have a lot of experience and we do not think that you will experience any harm as a result of taking part in this research study. Any suggestions or complaints about the study or how you were treated will be dealt with by the chief investigator Professor Simon Coulton whose contact details can be found at the end of this leaflet.

Who is funding and organising the study?

The study is funded by the Youth Endowment Fund and conducted by the **University of Kent**. The interventions are delivered by experienced, trained staff. Before we started the study, we asked an independent body to look at what we planned to do to ensure what we are doing is ethical and good practice.

What happens to the results of the study?

We are keen to ensure that all families involved in the study get an opportunity to help discuss and understand the results of the study. We will let you know of any opportunities to do this as they arise throughout the study period.

We are happy to send you a summary of the research at the end of the project. If you would like to receive this, please email us using the details at the end of this leaflet. The study results will help us understand new ways to help young people in the future. No one will be identified in any of the information or reports written about the study.

Will the research help me?

At this stage we cannot promise that this study will help you directly. However, the study will provide information about how we work with families in the future.

Thank you...

For taking the time to read this leaflet. Please ask any questions or raise any concerns you may have about the project. If you decide to take part, please keep this leaflet for future reference.

Project staff

Rosa Vass, trial manager, University of Kent, 01227 827912, r.vass@kent.ac.uk

Professor Simon Coulton, Chief Investigator, University of Kent, 01227 824535, S.Coulton@kent.ac.uk

If you have any complaints or concerns about the research project do not hesitate to contact:

Research Ethics and Governance,
Issjethics@kent.ac.uk

The privacy notice can be accessed here [tba](#)

Research Information Leaflet: Participant

