



Participant Information Sheet

A qualitative study of how the loss of a father before the age of 18, impacted counsellor's development, journey to becoming a counsellor and therapeutic practice.

Dear

Thank you for indicating that you are interested in taking part in this research. This Information Sheet will hopefully explain what is involved, but if you need further clarification, then please do not hesitate to contact me using the contact details below.

What is the purpose of the study?

This research is part of an MA in Clinical Counselling that I am undertaking at the University of Chester. I am interested in finding out about how the loss of a father before the eighteen, has impacted a counsellor's journey to becoming a qualified counsellor. I aim to explore the impact of the loss of a father before the age of 18 on development, and in counselling practice. I would be interested in exploring your view on, and experience of, this. Please take time to think through whether you wish to participate, to ask questions of the researcher.

Inclusion criteria

In order to take part in this research, you must fulfil the following criteria

Over eighteen

Loss of a father before the age of eighteen

Qualified Counsellor

In Counselling supervision

Member of the BACP or other recognised counselling body

Sufficiently grounded in their experience of loss to be able to participate safely in the interview

Sufficiently fluent in English

Please note that if you have a professional or personal relationship with me or are currently having bereavement counselling, you unfortunately will not be able to take part in this study.

What will taking part in this research involve?

To enable this, if you decide to take part, I will arrange a time to interview you on Zoom. Please ensure that you have a private space in which to access Zoom and that your internet access is stable. Your written consent will be obtained through the enclosed consent form. This will be read to you at the beginning of the interview. Your consent will be asked for, and recorded. With your agreement, we will exchange telephone numbers before the interview, which in the event of a technological failure, will enable us to continue the interview by telephone. The interview will last no more than an hour.

The interview will be semi-structured and be focussed around the following questions:

Appendix 1

- How has the loss of a father impacted upon your development?
- How has the loss of a father impacted your journey to becoming a counsellor?
- How has the impact on development had an impact upon your practice?
- How have you managed this impact in practice?
- Are there any other relevant issues you wish to raise?

Once the interview is complete, the digital recording will be transcribed. Your transcript will be allocated a pseudonym or code to protect your anonymity, and any identifying features in the data will be deleted.

Your right to withdraw without prejudice

You have every right to withdraw from the research at any time, without prejudice, up until two weeks after the date of our interview. I will let you know when that is. Once the writing-up has begun, it will not be impossible to remove your data as it will be aggregated, making your data more difficult to identify.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Discussing the loss of a father is a difficult and sensitive topic, which may cause discomfort or distressing feelings to arise.

If, for any reason, personal issues are stirred for you, you may find the following information useful in accessing support:

Time to Talk Chester: 07738386204

Number 71 Crisis Space: 01244 393139

Pathways Therapeutic Services: 07557944185

Mind: 0300 123 3393

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The experience will give you time to reflect on your experience and/or work, and to share your thoughts. This may contribute to something greater at research and policy level.

What if something goes wrong?

I will do everything within my ability to ensure your safety and confidentiality. However, if you are not happy with any aspect of the research process, please raise it with me. If you are still not happy, you may raise it with the Chair of the Ethics Committee. Email: SPS.Ethics@chester.ac.uk

The University does not accept responsibility for any harm experienced apart from that which is proven to be caused through its negligence. In the unlikely event that you experience harm through your participation in the research, and this is due to the negligent conduct of the researcher, then you may have grounds to bring legal action. If you choose to bring such action, you may incur legal costs.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential, and how will my data be stored?

The fact that you are taking part in the research, and everything that you share, will remain confidential. In the unlikely event that Child Protection issues are raised, I may have to alert Social Services or Police, but otherwise, what you share will form part of the data which will be anonymised by use of a pseudonym or code. The data will be stored securely in locked premises, and kept encrypted on a password protected computer. Only I, and my Research Supervisor, will have access to the data. The data will be destroyed (shredded or electronically deleted) after five years, in keeping with the data protection act. Participants should note that data collected from this project may be retained and published in an anonymised form. By agreeing to participate in this project, you are consenting to the retention and publication of data.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The completed research will be stored electronically at the University of Chester. The research may be disseminated in future publications and at conferences.

Whom may I contact for further information?

Appendix 1

I, the researcher, am: Amelia Fletcher
My contact details are: 2101390@chester.ac.uk

Thank you for your interest in this research.