**An exploration of person-centred counsellors and psychotherapists experiences of presence in the therapeutic relationship.**

My name is Rachel O’Hanlon and I am a final year student at the University of Warwick, studying for the BA (Hons) Person-Centred Counselling and Psychotherapy. I would like to invite you to take part in my research study, which is seeking to explore therapist’s experiences of presence when working with clients in the therapeutic relationship. This information sheet aims to help you to understand why the research is being done, and what taking part would involve. Please read the leaflet and contact me if you have any questions, or if you would like more information about the study.

**WHAT WILL TAKING PART INVOLVE?**

The aim of the study is to explore therapist’s understanding of therapeutic presence, experiences of presence and non-presence, the development of presence in practice, and the impact of presence on the therapeutic relationship. If you decide to take part in the research study, you will be invited to a one-to-one interview session via Microsoft Teams, in which you will be asked a series of questions around this topic. The interview will take around an hour to complete and will be audio / video recorded.

**WHY HAVE YOU BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART?**

I am looking for qualified person-centred counsellors and psychotherapists, who are currently in practice and are registered / accredited with a professional body. You have been invited to take part as you fit these criteria and may be able to share your experience of presence in the therapeutic relationship.

**DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE PART?**

Taking part is entirely voluntary. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form. Should you decide to take part you have the right to decline to answer any questions during the interview, or withdraw your consent to participate at any stage of the process until 1st March 2021, without giving a reason, and without consequence to you.

**WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?**

This study has received ethical approval by the University of Warwick. Participating in this study is likely to be beneficial to the counselling and psychotherapy community and may lead to the development of future research and / or impact on the training of therapists. Participation may also be of benefit to you, as you explore your own relationship with therapeutic presence and the impact of this on your practice. Whilst there is little risk in participating in this research study, themes may emerge for which you wish to access additional support. You may wish to seek support from within existing counselling or supervisory relationships, however information on how to access further support is available at the end of this leaflet.

**WILL TAKING PART BE CONFIDENTIAL?**

Data obtained in the study will be kept as confidential as possible and stored in line with GDPR (2018). Participant information will be anonymised, and data will be stored within the University of Warwick’s password protected and encrypted system. No-one outside of the research project will be able to access the audio / video interview recordings. Data will be destroyed once the project is complete. The final research paper may include verbatim (word for word) parts of the interview but will be anonymised and will not include any personally identifiable information.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY?**

The results of the study will form the basis of my Independent Research Project / final dissertation, which will be submitted to the University of Warwick. Should the final paper be of interest to the counselling and psychotherapy community, it is possible it may be published in a peer-reviewed journal and / or used for training / workshop or conference purposes.

**WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?**

If you are interested in taking part in this study, or would like more information, please contact me directly:

Rachel O’Hanlon: R.O-Hanlon@warwick.ac.uk

Research Supervisor (Dr Phil Goss): P.Goss@warwick.ac.uk

**WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I WISH TO MAKE A COMPLAINT ?**

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding this research study, please address your complaint to the contact below, who is independent of this study:

Head of Research Governance:

Jane Prewett, Research & Impact Services, University House, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 8UW. Email : researchgovernance@warwick.ac.uk Tel: 02476 522746.

If you wish to raise a complaint related to how we have processed your personal data, please contact our Data Protection Officer: DPO@warwick.ac.uk.

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your data unlawfully, you can complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO).

**FURTHER SUPPORT –**

<https://www.rethink.org/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>

**Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet and considering taking part in this research study.**