****

**PARTICIPANT INVITATION LETTER**

You are being invited to participate in a research study. Before you agree it is important that you understand what your participation would involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

**Who am I?**

I am Jodie an undergraduate student in the School of Psychology at the University of East London currently studying for a BSc (Hons) Counselling degree. As part of my studies I am conducting the research you are being invited to participate in.

**What is the research?**

The following study aims to address the experiences and viewpoints of counselling clinical supervisors in clinical supervision with supervisees who have experienced a client suicide. The researcher invites supervisors, inclusive of all modalities, to contribute their perspectives on the supervisory experience in context to client suicide. Using thematic analysis informed by phenomenology, the qualitative study aims understand the meaning of this experience for clinical supervisors and their supervisees in context to a client suicide. Research in the area of clinical supervision has often focused on the supervisory relationship and supervisees/trainee perspectives on the benefits, for instance, we know from research that it is common for supervisees to describe supervision as educational and supportive, yet research exploring the perspectives of supervisors remains a somewhat under-researched area, particularly in context to high risk issues, like the loss of a client through suicide.

My research has been approved by the School of Psychology Research Ethics Committee. This means that my research follows the standard of research ethics set by the British Psychological Society.

**Why have you been asked to participate?**

You have been invited to participate in my research as someone who fits the kind of people I am looking for to help me explore my research topic. I am looking to involve Accredited Clinical Supervisors belonging to a professional body (e.g., BACP, BPS, UKCP) who have supervised a counsellor(s) who has experienced the event of a client death by suicide. Recruitment of research participants is inclusive of all approaches to therapy (e.g., Person-Centered, Cognitive-Behavioural, Psychodynamic etc.) and does not have any exclusion features in relation to supervisor/practitioner identity (e.g. age, gender, cultural background or race). However we ask that participants do not participate in the research should they have experienced a recent acute bereavement or are under any acute distress.

I emphasise that I am not looking for ‘experts’ on the topic I am studying. You will not be judged or personally analysed in any way and you will be treated with respect.

You are quite free to decide whether or not to participate and should not feel coerced.

Please note that this research is a qualitative study exploring the *experiences* of Clinical Supervisors and does not seek to conduct any experiments nor test a hypotheses, and is not related to the supervisor’s duty of care or legal responsibilities.

**What will your participation involve?**

If you agree to participate you will be asked to participate in a 50-60 minute semi-structured face to face interview at The University of East London guided by an interview schedule to explore the research topic. Should you be unable to attend the interview in person a Skype interview will can be offered as an alternative. In order to capture your contributions to the research subject audio recording will take place during the informal discussion with the researcher.

I will not be able to pay you for participating in my research but your participation would be very valuable in helping to develop knowledge and understanding of my research topic.

**Your taking part will be safe and confidential**

Your privacy and safety will be respected at all times.

Participants will not be identified by the data collected, on any written material resulting from the data collection, or in any write-up of the research.

Participants can stop their participation at any time and do not have to answer all questions asked of them.

Participants can expect to be fully informed before starting the research and debriefed following the ending of research to explore any questions and/or concerns.

Contact numbers for supporting organisations are provided at the end of the research should the research participants wish to seek any additional support following the research.

**What will happen to the information that you provide?**

Data and personal contact details will be stored on two separate private USB sticks and saved onto my personal account at The University of East London ensuring my own access.

All identifiable data will be omitted to ensure that no participant’s names and contact details are linked to the data/material provided. All names and identifiable references will be changed or not used at all.

Anonymised interview extracts may be shared with the research supervisor, examiners and readers in the case of publication.

After the end of the research project, anonymised data and consent forms may be kept by the researcher and for not longer than 5 years, in a secure place that only s/he has access to, in order to be used for further analysis towards a published research article/chapter or a future research project. In any other case, they will be destroyed**.**

**What if you want to withdraw?**

* Participants can withdraw any time before the **analysis has started** (17th February 2019).
* Should a participant withdraw before the study starts on 17th February 2019 s/he will be informed about the researcher’s potential interest in keeping part or all of the data already collected.
* Participants will be advised of their right to withdraw from the research study without disadvantage to them and without being obliged to give any reason. This will be made clear to participants in the invitation letter sent to them.

**Contact Details**

If you would like further information about my research or have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Name**: Jodie Nelson **Email**: U1614731@uel.ac.uk

If you have any questions or concerns about how the research has been conducted please contact the research supervisor Dr Luis Jimenez. School of Psychology, University of East London, Water Lane, London E15 4LZ,

**Email**: l.jimenez@uel.ac.uk

**or**

Chair of the School of Psychology Research Ethics Sub-committee: Dr Tim Lomas, School of Psychology, University of East London, Water Lane, London E15 4LZ.

(**Email**: t.lomas@uel.ac.uk)