# **UKRI reference no: ES/V015745/1**

**Participant Information Sheet: Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Leads (survey)**

Safeguarding Victims of Domestic Abuse during Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities

**1. Invitation to research**

We would like to invite you to take part in a research project investigating the impact of covid-19 on domestic abuse safeguarding policy. We are interested in your experiences during the initial lockdown and the different restrictive measures implemented since, as a comparison to pre-lockdown practice. The Principal Investigator is Prof. Khatidja Chantler. The research team includes Dr Michelle McManus, Subject Head in Criminal Justice at at Liverpool John Moores University as well as researchers; Debbie Thackray, Gayatri Nambiar-Greenwood or Margaret Struthers who we are all senior lecturers in social work or nursing at Manchester Metropolitan University. Our research project is funded by the ‘UKRI Ideas to Address COVID-19 grant call’ and is for an 18 month period in total.

**2. Why have I been invited?**

You have been invited to take part in the study as you have a key role in safeguarding in your organisation and have consented to taking part in the survey. All participants will work in England.

**3. Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide if you would like to take part. A copy of the consent form is embedded into the first part of the online survey and will be required to be completed before the survey can be accessed. A copy of the consent form and information sheet can be provided on email if required by contacting: Michelle McManus at: M.A.McManus@ljmu.ac.uk. As the survey is completely anonymous, responses are not identifiable, therefore we are unable to withdraw after your completion. However, if you should decide to withdraw consent during the survey, please stop completing it, as we will not use partially (under 50% completed) responses within the study.

**4. What will I be asked to do?**

You are invited to take part in an online survey. The survey is an England-wide survey via Qualtrics for the attention of safeguarding leads based across health and social care, local authorities, police and specialist domestic abuse services. The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to fill in. The survey will establish how safeguarding practice is being conducted during Covid19 and how this may differ from previous safeguarding procedures and practice. It will focus specifically on the identification and response to DA, examples of good practice, challenges, multiagency relationships, and innovations during lockdown at a national level.

Your survey data will be stored safely in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation (GPDR) guidelines.

**5. Are there any risks if I participate?**

We acknowledge that some participants may also have experienced and survived domestic abuse and may feel distress due to the content of the interview. To this end, we will also have contact details available about where other sources of support can be found at the end of this information sheet.

**6. Are there any advantages if I participate?**

Although there are no direct rewards for taking part in this study, this research aims to explore how strategic decision-making, practitioner and survivors of domestic abuse experiences have changed during the covid-19 pandemic. Your participation in the study will enable examples of innovations in practice and effective multi agency approaches to safeguarding in DVA cases to be shared at local and National levels thus contributing to policy and practice developments in relation to safeguarding victims of DVA.

**7. What will happen with the data I provide?**

The data controller for this study will be LJMU. The LJMU Data Protection Office provides oversight of LJMU activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at secretariat@ljmu.ac.uk. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. LJMU’s Data Protection Officer can also be contacted at secretariat@ljmu.ac.uk***.***

The University will process your personal data for the purpose of research. Research is a task that we perform in the public interest. Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. You can find out more about how we use your information by contacting secretariat@ljmu.ac.uk. If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, please contact LJMU in the first instance at secretariat@ljmu.ac.uk. If you remain unsatisfied, you may wish to contact the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). Contact details, and details of data subject rights, are available on the ICO website at: https://ico.org.uk/fororganisations/dataprotection-reform/overview-of-the-gdpr/individuals-rights/

We will only retain your personal data for as long as is necessary to achieve the research purpose. Under the terms of a Research Collaboration Agreement which defines use and agrees confidentiality and information security provisions, it is the University’s policy to only publish anonymised data unless you have given your explicit written consent to be identified in the research. **The University never sells personal data to third parties.**

Data will be processed and stored on secure, password protected computers and files. Encrypted or password protected files will be used to send data between members of the research team via the university’s research data storage platform.

For further information about use of your personal data and your data protection rights please see the University’s Data Protection Pages: https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/data-protection

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

The findings will be shared via the project website and twitter feed. Emerging findings from the study will be disseminated through webinars, round table discussions, National and European domestic abuse conferences and via two academic papers.

**Who has reviewed this research project?**

The research project has been reviewed internally by independent researchers and externally by the funders: ‘UKRI Ideas to Address COVID-19 grant call’. The scrutiny committee will also have continued oversight of the project.

**Who do I contact to take part?**

To take part or to ask for more information about the survey, please contact Michelle McManus: M.A.McManus@ljmu.ac.uk

For more information about the study, you can also contact the Principal Investigator, Khatidja Chantler: k.chantler@mmu.ac.uk

**What if I have concerns about this study or I wish to complain?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact the relevant investigator who will do their best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how they intend to deal with it. If you wish to make a complaint, please contact the chair of the Liverpool John Moores University Research Ethics Committee (researchethics@ljmu.ac.uk) and your communication will be re-directed to an independent person as appropriate.

Further support:

[**https://www.samaritans.org/**](https://www.samaritans.org/)

[**https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/**](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/)

**THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROJECT**