

# **LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**



## **‘Does pain affect dependents too? Exploring the relationship between parental coping with chronic pain and the experiences of young dependent carers’**

**Researcher: Miss Emma Kirk (School of Natural Sciences and Psychology)**

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it involves. Please take time to read the following information. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide if you want to take part or not.

### **1. What is the purpose of the study?**

This study is being conducted as part of a student project for a degree. The study aims to explore the relationship between a parent with chronic pain and their adolescent child’s perception of the pain. This will help us understand the experience of being a young person perhaps caring for someone with chronic pain and the sorts of positive or negative things this may involve for them as a teenager growing up. A lot of research has been conducted with husbands and wives, but little with the dependents of people with chronic pain who may also have an important role in a family context. The current study is designed to address this gap.

### **2. Do I have to take part?**

No, participation in this study is entirely voluntary; it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do you will be given this information sheet and asked to sign a consent form. You must also have your parent or guardian’s approval to take part as you may be under 16 years old. You are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. A decision to withdraw will not affect your rights/any future treatment/service you receive.

### **3. What will happen to me if I take part?**

You will be asked to complete a questionnaire which involves questions about your parent or guardian’s pain and what you think about this, your parent will also be asked to complete the same questionnaire. This should take about 20 minutes of your time. The questionnaire can be sent back to the researcher via pre paid mail or personally collected by the researcher from a location of your choice. Your parent will have the same information.

As a young carer for someone with chronic pain you will also be invited to talk to the researcher about your experiences at home, with school or just generally growing up with someone who might need some help at home sometimes. This will be an informal chat with

just the researcher who will ask you some questions and sometimes just let you tell them about what you think. You will be tape recorded whilst this happens but this will be anonymous and only the researcher can listen to what you have said.

This will last for as long as you want to talk, but will approximately be between 30 minutes and an hour. You will be invited to come to John Moores University to take part, or if you prefer the researcher can meet with you at a convenient place, such as your house. If your parents would prefer to be with you whilst we chat that is fine but lots of teenagers like to take part independently and that is fine too. It is your choice.

#### **4. Are there any risks / benefits involved?**

There are no anticipated risks of you taking part in this study however it is possible that sometimes talking about things might make you a little upset for a short time, if this happens we can take a break and talk again later, or you can see the researcher another day, or if you decide you don't want to talk about it you can withdraw from the study whenever you feel you would like to.

#### **5. Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

Yes, any information provided during the study will be kept confidential and all data is recorded anonymously. Only the researcher will have access to your responses and these will be destroyed as is standard after 5 years.

#### **6. Contact Details of Researcher**

*Miss Emma Kirk*

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