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Coping and Well-Being

Information sheet for young adults (age 18-30 years) who are being asked to participate in the study

The purpose of the study

This research aims to find out more about the lives of children and teenagers with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and anxiety/depression in Ireland. Although lots of research has been done on both conditions, young people with ADHD or anxiety/depression have rarely been asked to talk about their lives and how they are affected. This study is part of a larger research project that will also involve interviews with parents and young people currently being treated for ADHD or anxiety/depression as well as going to schools and to find out how much the wider population of young people know about ADHD and anxiety/depression and how they feel about the conditions.

Why am I being asked to take part?

You are being asked to take part because when you were younger you were treated for Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) or anxiety/depression.

Who is doing this research?

The research is being undertaken by Dr Eilis Hennessy and Lynn McKeague of UCD School of Psychology.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to take part in an interview so that the researchers can find out more about your experiences having ADHD or anxiety/depression when you were a child and/or teenager. The researchers will ask questions about what you see as the main difficulties/challenges you faced, what was helpful to you, and what was positive about your experiences. We are also interested in whether you see yourself as continuing to face challenges. We are also asking participants to give us some background information such as their age, level of education, and employment status. This is so we can tell whether the people who take part in our study are representative of young people in Ireland and whether there are differences in the views of young people from different backgrounds.

Are any risks involved in taking part?

No, there are no known risks involved in taking part although the study may cause minor inconvenience because it is taking up some of your time.

Are there any benefits of taking part?

No there are no personal benefits to taking part, although many people say that being involved in research is an interesting experience. However, the findings of this study will help us to have a better understanding of the lives of children and young people who have anxiety/depression and ADHD. This information can then be useful to people who want to give them support and help such as teachers, psychologists and psychiatrists.

Will other people know about my answers?

All information provided to the researchers will remain confidential and the information will be stored anonymously so that it will not be possible to link individuals to their answers to interview questions.



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Research Ethics Committee Approval

This research project has been approved by the ethics committee of University College Dublin.

What will happen to the information?

The information that we collect from the interview will be transcribed and stored on a computer. When interviews with all the participants have been transcribed they will be analysed to see what common themes exist among the parents' responses and also to see whether there are differences in the reported experiences of people who had ADHD and anxiety/depression when they were younger. The only personal information that will be stored about individuals is their age and their sex.

The findings of the study will be written up and presented as part of a thesis for a doctoral degree, it will also be presented at international conferences and published in academic journals. These written reports will not contain any information about individuals who take part and when all the reports have been written the computer files will be destroyed. We estimate that we will keep the information for between three and five years.

Will other people know about my answers?

All information provided to the researchers will remain confidential and the information will be stored anonymously so that it will not be possible to link individuals to their answers to interview questions.

How will computers be used in this study?

Computers will be used to store all information collected in the study. None of the stored information will include people's names so it will not be possible to link interview data to named individuals.

Can I change my mind about taking part?

Yes. The researchers will remind you that you can withdraw at any time during the interview session. However, following the termination of this interview the information that you provide will be anonymised which means that the researcher will no longer be able to tell your data apart from that provided by other participants. Therefore upon completing the interview session and leaving the interview room, you will no longer be able to withdraw your data from the study.

How long will it take?

It is estimated that the total time will be about 40 minutes.

How can I find out more?

You can contact Eilis Hennessy by email on eilis.hennessy@ucd.ie or you can ring her in her office in University College Dublin (01) 716 8362. You can contact Lynn McKeague by email on lynn.mckeague@ucd.ie or by phone on 085 1800353.