**Research study identifying experiences of grief in patients of the North West Community Addiction Team, Glasgow**

*Have you had a child removed from your care by social services?*

*Have you had someone close to you pass away?*

**We invite you to take part in a research study**:

Before you choose whether to take part in this study, it is important that you understand why this research is being done and what it involves. Please take time to read this information and discuss it with your clinician. It is up to you if you choose to take part. If you choose not to take part, it will not impact on any other aspects of your care. Please ask if you have any questions or want further information.

**Important things you need to know about the study**:

**Who am I and why are we doing this research?** My name is Ruth Anderson. I am a Trainee Clinical Psychologist with the NHS and University of Glasgow. I am doing this research project as part of my training to be a Clinical Psychologist under supervision of Dr Lynda Russell (Clinical Psychologist, Addictions Team) and Dr Alison Jackson (Academic Supervisor, University of Glasgow).

**What is the reason for this study?** We want to understand more about people’s experiences after a child has been removed into care or a bereavement of someone close to them.

**Who can take part?** The study is looking for patients of the North West Glasgow Community Addiction Team. The study is looking for parents who have had a child removed from their care by services. The study is also looking for people who have experienced bereavement. Thinking about a loved one who has passed away makes most people feel some sadness. The study is looking for participants who continue to feel highly distressed about the loss of a loved one. The study is also looking for participants who have experienced a bereavement and they no longer feel as distressed by this now.

People show distress in different ways. Listed are some signs of distress to help you work out if you still feel distressed by your loss of a loved one;

* feeling tearful frequently,
* have difficulty carrying on with everyday activities,
* thinking about the loved one frequently/everyday
* experiencing lots of different feelings such as sadness, anger, shock and denial.
* looked for help from others such as your GP, your CAT worker or specialist services like Cruise.

**What does the study involve?** The study involves giving some general information, such as your gender, and completing three questionnaires in clinic about the person you have lost, the way you feel and your substance use. This is thought to take around 30 minutes. If you are completing the questionnaires with your Clinical Psychologist, you will complete the study during your session. If you are a client of the North West team, completing the study will take place in the waiting room prior to your usual clinic appointment because due to the busyness of the clinics there are no private rooms available. If you wish a private room, this can be arranged on request for a time out with the clinic.

**Do I have to take part in the study?** No. You do not have to take part in the study. Taking part is voluntary and you can withdraw at any time. We would like to be able to ask you for your reasons for withdrawal. You do not have to give us any reasons. We will only ask you because your answers may help us improve the way the study is carried out with other people.

**Are there any disadvantages to taking part in this study?** The questionnaires are of a very sensitive nature. There is a risk of you becoming distressed due to the topic of the questionnaires. You are able to withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason if you feel it is too much for you. If you do feel distressed, the researcher and clinic team will be available at the clinic to support you. You will be given a list of supports available for you to contact if you need help once leaving the clinic.

**Are there any benefits to taking part in this study?** The findings of this study may help improve services, in particular for parents who have had a child removed, as it will directly inform services being developed in this area currently in Glasgow.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?** Yes, all the information will be kept private with no way of identifying you. The researchers will be able to identify you so if there are any concerns from scoring your questionnaires, such as high scores, we can share this with your worker so they can help you. All information will be handled in line with the Data Protection Act.

**What will happen to the results of this study?** The results of this study will be written up as part of the main researchers Clinical Psychology training with the University of Glasgow. The team aim to try and publish the findings to share the results and inform future studies. No individual person will be identifiable when the research is published.

If you have any further questions or want to contact us further please call Ruth Anderson (Trainee Clinical Psychologist) or Dr Lynda Russell (Clinical Psychologist, Field Supervisor) on 0141 800 0670. If you wish to speak to someone independent from the project please contact Professor Rory O’Connor (University of Glasgow) on 0141 211 3920.

**What if something goes wrong?** If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions 0141 800 0670. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Complaints on 0141 201 4500.