

Evaluation of the referral process for Self Injury Support (SIS)

Contact the research team



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We invite you to take part in a study

- Before you decide whether to take part, it is important that you understand why this study is being done and what it will involve.
- Please read this sheet carefully. Discuss it with others if you wish.
- It is up to you to decide whether to take part.

Essential study information

- We are working with the  Self Injury Support (SIS) team to investigate how people are referred to their service and people's experiences of referral and the support that SIS provides.
- We are inviting staff from the SIS team and staff from services that can refer into SIS to take part in an interview, that will last up to **1 hour** with our researcher – Hannah.
- The information from these interviews, along with interviews with people who have had support from SIS will be used to refine referral pathways (if needed), develop user friendly information about the SIS service for waiting rooms, and identify any training or resource needs.
- **All information you give us will be treated as confidential**, and any personal details will be removed from interview transcripts (typed up record of your interview) so that individuals cannot be identified.
- If you take part, you will be offered a **£25 high street shopping voucher** to thank you for your time.
- The study is based at the University of Bristol and is funded by the NHS via the National Institute for Health & Care Research, Applied Research Collaboration West <https://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/>

What do I do now?

- If you would be interested in taking part please fill out this form (use link or scan QR code): <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/socs/expression-of-interest-to-take-part-in-the-evaluation-of-the-re>
- If you have any questions or would like to find out more please contact Hannah Family at Hannah.family@bristol.ac.uk
- **Filling out the form / contacting Hannah will not commit you to taking part.**



Why are we doing this study?

We are working with SIS to investigate whether the referral pathways from NHS services into SIS are working as well as they could for people who have self-injured.

Why am I being asked to take part? Because you work for SIS, or you are a clinical member of staff at a service that sees patients who have self-injured in your service.

Do I have to take part? It is up to you to decide if you want to take part in the study. You are not obliged to take part, and your decision will not affect your employment now or in the future, nor will the details of your participation be shared with your employer. Before you take part, the researcher Hannah, will describe the study and go through this information sheet and answer any questions.

What if I change my mind? You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. If this is prior to the interview, we will immediately destroy any personal information we hold about you. If you do wish to withdraw from the study after the interview has taken place, please contact Hannah using the details above, however, it may not be possible to withdraw any data that has already been anonymised (around one week after interview).

What will happen if I take part?

You will be offered the option to take part in an interview in person, telephone or online - whichever you prefer. If you decide you would like to take part in person, Hannah can meet you at work, or at the ARC West offices where Hannah works. Or if you prefer to take part on the phone or online, you will be phoned by Hannah on the number you have provided, or sent a link that you can follow to a MS Teams call at the time of your interview.

During the interview we will ask you questions about your experiences of providing care for people who have self-injured, the referral process and the support provided by SIS.

You will be asked to consent to us audio recording what you say.

At the end of the interview you will be offered a £25 high-street shopping voucher to thank you for your time.

If you take part in person, you can claim reasonable expenses for your travel to meet us to do the interview, please let Hannah know in advance if you will need travel expenses.

Possible benefits and disadvantages of taking part

There are **no direct benefits** from taking part, but you may find it useful to have the opportunity to talk about your experiences of providing care for people who have self-injured. By taking part you will be having a say in how self-injury care is provided in the future.

Disadvantages include the time taken for the interview. The study could potentially expose areas of practice that may benefit from improvement. Please know that the research team are not evaluating the professional performance of individual staff members. Our focus is on how support and referrals for people who present with self injury works more generally.

Is the study confidential?

All the data collected will be treated as confidential and held securely at the University of Bristol.

We will keep all information about you safe on a secure university computer folder that only the study team will have access to.

The interview will be audio recorded. A written record (transcript) of this recording will be made by a University of Bristol approved transcription service called Bristol Transcribing and Translation services, who have signed a confidentiality agreement and comply with our Data Security standards. The transcript will be made anonymous by removing any identifying information (e.g. names, places, organisations, dates) so you cannot be identified from it.

All personal data (names, roles, phone number or email) used to arrange the interview, will be kept separately from written records (transcripts) of the interview discussion. Once we have finished the study, all contact details will be deleted. We will write our reports in a way that means no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

If you agree to take part you will be asked to sign a consent form, which will be stored electronically in a password-protected folder on a secure University of Bristol data server (Research Data Storage Facility) for a period of 10 years, when it will be securely destroyed.

There are some limits to confidentiality; in the unlikely event of poor practice being uncovered during this research, the researcher would have a duty of care to discuss this with the clinical lead in the service. The researcher will however discuss their concerns with you prior to any disclosure.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The interview data will be analysed by the research team and the anonymised results shared with the SIS team, the health service, local authorities and other researchers. This will be in the form of reports, articles in medical and health journals, newsletters, and talking about the results at conferences. Anonymous quotes from the interview may be published, but no names or identifying details will be reported so it will not be possible to trace who said them.

Audio recordings of the interview will be destroyed one month following publication of the final study report (this is expected to be by April 2026). Anonymised transcripts (which do not contain identifying features) will be securely archived for 10 years on a password protected University of Bristol computer server, with the Chief Investigator, Lucy Biddle as data custodian.

Storage of all data will comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (2018) and The University of Bristol's data protection policies. You can find out more about how we use your information by contacting the research governance team at research-governance@bristol.ac.uk

Sharing data with other research studies

If you take part, you will be asked if your anonymised interview transcript, with the personal details removed, can be made available to researchers working on other relevant studies subject to a legally binding non-disclosure contract.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

If you agree to take part in this study, your data saved from this study may be used for future research if you have given permission for this to happen. This means that it will be stored in an online database so that it is available to use by other researchers. We will ask for your permission to make your focus group (or interview) data **open access** during the consent process which we will do before we start the focus group.

What is open access? Open data means that data are made available, free of charge, to anyone interested in the research, or who wishes to conduct their own analysis of the data. We will therefore have no control over how these data are used. However, all data will be anonymised before it is made available and therefore there will be no way to identify you from the research data.

Why open access? Open access to research findings and access to data is considered best research practice and is a requirement of many funding bodies and journals. As a large proportion of research is publicly funded, the outcomes of the research should be made publicly available. Sharing data helps us to get the most use out of research data. More information about open access to research data, and the levels of access can be found at: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/staff/researchers/data/accessing-research-data/>

What if I have questions about the study?

Please ask the researchers any questions: Hannah Family,
Hannah.family@bristol.ac.uk

Who is running and funding the study?

The study is organised by the University of Bristol. The study is funded by NIHR ARC West and has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee 25850.



What if there is a problem?

In the event that something does go wrong, and you are harmed during the research, and this is due to someone's negligence then you may have grounds for a legal action for compensation against the responsible organisation, or the employer of the responsible individual, but you may have to pay your legal costs

If you have any concerns about any part of the study please contact the study

Chief Investigator: Lucy Biddle on (0117) 455 7758 lucy.biddle@bristol.ac.uk

If you have a complaint: please contact the Faculty of Health Science Research Ethics Committee, via the Research Governance Team, research-governance@bristol.ac.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read this information

If you would like to take part please express your interest - scan the QR code or via this link :

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/socs/expression-of-interest-to-take-part-in-the-evaluation-of-the-re>



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