

Examining the experiences of those supporting Deaf young people's mental health.

Hello. My name is Conall Monaghan, and I am a trainee clinical psychologist at Canterbury Christ Church University. I want to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important you understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you.

As part of this work, I am inviting parents, teachers and social workers who support the emotional well-being of Deaf young people in Ireland to take part in our study. I want to hear your perspectives on what helps young people struggling with their mental health and what challenges stand in the way. Your insights are invaluable in shaping a better understanding of how to support Deaf young people effectively.

What Does Participating Involve?

You will take part in an individual interview, which will last approximately 45 minutes. These interviews are planned to take place via webcam, but in-person interviews may be accommodated if it best meets your needs. During this discussion, you will be asked questions about supporting Deaf young people's well-being.

Below is an example of some of the questions you may be asked.

- **What do you consider your role to be in supporting Deaf young people's mental health?**
- **From your position, what would be the type of challenges Deaf young people may face regarding their mental health?**
- **What helps in supporting young people's mental health and where is support needed?**
- **What factors, broadly, do you feel would improve the emotional well-being of Deaf people?**

How Confidential Is Your Participation?

All information collected will be treated confidentially. Interviews will be recorded and subsequently transcribed. During this process, you will be given a pseudonym and any identifiable features across the interview, such as place names, will be removed. The video recordings will be protected in a password-secure file, accessible only to the lead researcher and their supervisors. Upon completion of the thesis, all recordings will be securely destroyed. Consent forms will be retained for five years from the date the research is submitted, after which they will also be securely destroyed.

Participant Information sheet

The only case in which confidentiality may be breached by the research team is if the researchers believe there is a serious risk of harm or danger to either yourself or another individual (e.g., physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, concerns for child protection, rape, self-harm, suicidal intent or criminal activity), or if a serious crime has been disclosed. In these cases, the researcher will have a legal duty to contact authorities.

Can I access my data?

You are within your legal rights to ask for a copy of the audio recording. Additionally, you can ask for a copy of your consent form. All data requests must be made before the destruction of material after the thesis is completed, as from that point it may no longer be possible to identify which material came from you. This will take place in January 2027.

What are the risks?

Discussing the mental health of a young person you have cared for may cause upset. It is recommended that before taking part, you consider whether this risk is likely in your case. Nonetheless, if the discussion causes unexpected emotions, you will be offered resources you can contact for support.

Can I Withdraw?

You may withdraw your data up to two weeks post-interview. After this period, data will be anonymized, making withdrawal impossible. Requests can be submitted during the interview or via email afterwards.

What if I would like to make a complaint?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you can email me at c.monaghan1671@canterbury.ac.uk and I will do my best to address your concerns. If you remain dissatisfied and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting Dr Fergal Jones, Clinical Psychology Programme Research Director, Salomons Institute for Applied Psychology at fergal.jones@canterbury.ac.uk.

I Still Have Questions, Who Do I Contact?

We're happy to answer any questions you might have. You can reach the lead researcher by email at c.monaghan1671@canterbury.ac.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet!