

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether you want to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully.

Project Title: Evaluating the use of testimonial education when delivering gambling awareness and prevention seminars to secondary school children: benefits, concerns, and areas for improvement.

Principal Researchers: Dr Helen Heaviside, Dr Jana Fiserova and Ian Tomlinson

Researchers' contact details: h.heaviside@ucfb.com, j.fiserova@ucfb.com, i.tomlinson@ucfb.com

INFORMATION TO POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS

1. What is the purpose of the project?

This study aims to explore parents' perceptions of gambling and of delivering an educational programme around problem gambling using testimonial education to their children. In doing this, the study aims to understand any benefits of educating students on problem gambling using this method of delivery, any issues or concerns associated with this method of delivery and the content delivered, and any suggestions for improvement of the educational sessions.

2. Why have I been selected to take part?

You were selected as a potential participant of this study because you are a parent of a student who has attended the EPIC Risk Management Gambling Awareness and Protection seminar.

3. What will I have to do?

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and therefore it is up to you to decide if you wish to take part in the study. If you do agree to participate in this study, you will be required to sign a consent form. You will then be asked to take part in a 60-minute interview with two researchers, Ian, Jana, and/or Helen.

Before the interview, we will ask you to complete a hypothetical story which we will have emailed you together with the MS Teams link. During this interview we will refer to the story and consider your perceptions of gambling and of using testimonial education as a method of delivering content around gambling awareness and protection. This will be based on the EPIC Risk Management Gambling Awareness and Protection seminar which your child recently attended. You do not have to respond to all of the questions in the interview, and have the right to skip any questions you are not comfortable discussing. The interview will be recorded and later transcribed.

4. Will there be any negative effects of taking part in the study?

There are no foreseeable risks to participating in this study. However, if you start to feel uncomfortable at any point, you can stop the interview. In addition, you will be provided with details of support services which you can reach out to if required.

5. What benefits will the study have?

It is envisaged that the findings of this study will enhance our understanding of using lived experience (aka testimonial education) as a method of raising awareness around and protection from problem gambling. This information is likely to be beneficial to support organisations such as EPIC Risk Management in delivering sessions on problem gambling and to feed into national policy around gambling, and is therefore likely to have long term benefits for reducing prevalence of problem gambling among secondary school children, young adults and consequently in the British population.

6. How will confidentiality be assured?

Individual participant names will remain anonymous throughout the research and in any subsequent publications. With regard to interview transcripts, all data will be stored securely on the principle investigators' laptops with password protection. Any data will only be accessible by the principal investigators. At no time will information be disclosed to third parties or data used for purposes other than those highlighted above. All associated data will not be kept any longer than needed for the purpose of the study at which point it will be destroyed.

7. Who will have access to the information that I provide?

Only the principle investigators will have access to the data, which will be stored in accordance with the Buckinghamshire New University policy on data security.

8. How will my information be stored / used in the future?

The analysed and anonymised data will be used by EPIC Risk Management to develop and advocate their gambling awareness seminars. In addition, the data may be written up for publication and or conference presentation by the principle investigators, Dr Helen Heaviside, Dr Jana Fiserova and Ian Tomlinson. In this instance the data will be kept for no longer than is required for the purpose of this project.

9. Has this project received appropriate ethical clearance?

This study has been approved by the UCFB Research Ethics Committee (ref. no. JF040321GG).

10. Will I receive any financial rewards / travel expenses for taking part?

There will be no financial incentives offered for taking part in this study.

11. How can I withdraw from the project?

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you should not feel coerced in any way to participate. You may withdraw from participation at any time and for any reason without penalty. All information pertaining to your participation will be removed from the study. If you do wish to withdraw from the study, please email one of the principle investigators (i.e., Dr Helen Heaviside, Dr Jana Fiserova or Ian Tomlinson) using the email address detailed at the top of this information sheet or in section 12.

12. If I require further information who should I contact and how?

If you have any questions or require further information please feel free to contact either Dr Helen Heaviside (h.heaviside@ucfb.com), Dr Jana Fiserova (j.fiserova@ucfb.com) or Ian Tomlinson (i.tomlinson@ucfb.com) via email.