



Information Sheet

Research study title: To explore the experiences of fathers who have engaged or are currently engaged in the treatment process of a child or adolescent with a clinically diagnosed eating disorder

Thank you for considering participating in this research project. The purpose of this document is to explain to you what the research is about and what your participation would involve, so as to enable you to make an informed choice.

The purpose of this study is to identify what factors exist to either facilitate or prevent fathers from engaging in the treatment process of their child or adolescent with a clinically diagnosed eating disorder. Should you choose to participate, you will be asked to take part in a one-off online focus group, along with other fathers. This focus group will be facilitated by a member of the research team. This focus group will be recorded via Microsoft teams and is expected to take 40-60 minutes to complete.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. There is no obligation to participate, and should you choose to do so you can refuse to answer specific questions, or decide to withdraw from the focus group. Once the focus group has been concluded, you can choose to withdraw your details at any time in the subsequent two-week period prior to commencement of data transcription (typing data up from audio recordings). However, it should be noted that it may be difficult to separate your comments from other comments in the focus groups, so it cannot be completely guaranteed that your data will be completely deleted. The research team will make every effort to ensure that any individual comments are removed from the data.

All of the information you provide will be kept confidential and anonymous by the researcher, who will make it available only to the research supervisors involved in overseeing this research project. The only exception is where information is disclosed which indicates that there is a serious risk to you or to others. Please be aware, however, that while we can guarantee that we will maintain confidentiality, we cannot guarantee that group members

will do the same. However, the importance of confidentiality will be reiterated on commencement and upon completion of the focus groups.

Recording of the focus group will be done using Microsoft Teams. Once, the focus group is completed, the recording will immediately be transferred to an encrypted and password protected laptop and wiped from the recording device. The data will then be transcribed by the researcher facilitating the focus groups, and all identifying information will be removed. Once this is done, the audio-recording will also be deleted and only the anonymized transcript will remain. This will be stored on the University College Cork OneDrive secure system. The data will be stored for a minimum of ten years as per the University College Cork Research Data Management Policy (2016).

The information you provide may contribute to research publications and/or conference presentations and to a MSc Research Thesis.

We do not intend to cause any distress to participants. However, some of the subjects broached in the interview are of a sensitive and personal nature, should you wish to do so, you can choose not to answer questions or leave the interview at any time. If you or anyone else becomes distressed the focus group will be suspended. The wellbeing of the participants will take precedence over data collection. Should you experience distress the researcher facilitating the focus groups is a trained and registered Mental Health Nurse will remain on the Microsoft Teams Platform after completion of the focus group to provide support as necessary. A list of additional support services will also be made available.

This study has obtained ethical approval from the UCC Social Research Ethics Committee.

If you have any queries about this research, you can contact me Hazel O'Sullivan at; 113718541@umail.ucc.ie, or my Supervisors Dr Aine Horgan aine.horgan@ucc.ie or Dr Johnny Goodwin John.goodwin@ucc.ie

If you agree to take part in this study, please sign the consent form overleaf electronically and email to Hazel O'Sullivan @ 113718541@umail.ucc.ie