



much
more than
just a school



24 October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Link Up Leigh Park Project

We have a unique opportunity for your child to be able to take part in group discussions to help policy makers collate the opinions of young people regarding further education and life chances. We are partnering with Havant Borough Council, University of Portsmouth, and The Health Foundation to carry out this research.

Focus groups will take place in school on Thursday during personal development time. We require 6-8 volunteers from each Tutor Group in Year 11. This will start on Thursday 10 November. Students who participate will be rewarded with refreshments and a £5 Amazon Voucher.

We attach two information documents regarding this project one for students and one for parents. Please use this link to give permission for your child to take part:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2W4a34q1NUGg3oPDxQCwSGMnJ2yWPDtMsTjpDX3NXFdUM00wSTJRVFJPU0tCTjBSTjQ4RjBQT04yRy4u>

We would like a good representation as we believe this is a valuable piece of research to ensure that schools and colleges can use the research in the future to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all.

Kind regards

Ella Capaldi
Head of School



Success for All through Attainment, Resilience and Autonomy

Park Community School
Middle Park Way, Havant, PO9 4BU
Headteacher: Christopher Anders BA(Hons) MA
T: 023 9248 9800 W: pcs.hants.sch.uk E: info@pcs.hants.sch.uk



Link Up Leigh Park Project

Participant Information Sheet G01a v.1

Parents of individuals aged between 15-16 years old

We would like to invite you to take part in our research study. Before you decide we would like you to understand what is being done and what it would mean for you. Do ask the researchers over the email addresses listed above if anything is not clear.

What is the purpose of the study?

This study is part of a larger project funded by the Health Foundation UK and it is a collaboration between University of Portsmouth and Havant Borough Council. This study looks at gaining a better understanding of the barriers young adults aged between 16-24-years old face in staying in education and employment. The study will also help build the foundations for a set of interventions that will help young adults from Leigh Park continue education, training, help access employment opportunities and secure employment.

Why have I been invited?

The research requires collecting information from teenagers and young adults living in Leigh Park. As you and your family are current residents of Leigh Park and your child is a student at Park Community School, your child is the ideal candidate for the purpose of this study.

Will I receive a reward for taking part?

Unfortunately, there is no reward for taking part in the study. We will though ensure that refreshments and snacks will be provided. Where appropriate £5 Amazon vouchers will be made available for our participants.

What will happen to me if I take part?

Your child will be asked to take part in a focus group with their peers. Questions and discussions regarding current and future educational ambitions, future employment and training opportunities will be asked. There will also be questions and discussions around topics such as young individuals' lifestyle, habits, and wellbeing. This will help us gain a wide and diverse understanding of the lives of 15-16-year-olds living in Leigh Park with a focus on the barriers and challenges they may face.

Do I have to take part?

No - participation is voluntary. For example, if you think that your child may feel uncomfortable or if you are uncomfortable with their participation in a focus group exploring their education or employment opportunities and you decide for them not to participate that would be fine.

Are there any possible disadvantages/risks or benefits of taking part?

There are no foreseeable risks/disadvantages or benefits linked with participating in this study. By taking part in the study, you will contribute towards helping young individuals living in Leigh Park continue and stay in education, seek, and gain employment, and training.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Yes – although you will sign an informed consent form to agree that your child takes part in this study all the information will be kept secure by the research team at the University of Portsmouth. However, if your child may reveal information that raises concerns about their safety or the safety of others, we will need to report it to the Head Teacher and the school psychologist. All data will be anonymous once data analysis is finished, and only anonymised data will be shared with project partners such as Havant Borough Council. Data may be presented at academic conferences and used for teaching purposes at the University of Portsmouth. Data that does not identify you or your child may be presented at scientific meetings or in academic publications. It could also be used in future research studies approved by a Research Ethics Committee.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

Your child is welcome to stop their participation at any time, without giving a reason. If you decide to stop during the interview/focus group, your data will be destroyed. Once the interview/focus group discussions are finished you will be given a period of 7 days to withdraw your data if you were to decide to do so. After the period of 7 days your data will be used for the purpose of this research, and it will not be possible to withdraw your data.

What if there is a problem?

If during the interview/focus group your child has any concerns about any aspect of this study, they will be advised to speak to the school's gatekeeper (Susan Parish - S.Parish@pcs.hants.sch.uk) in the first instance if this is appropriate or to the researcher leading the focus group/interview. If you have a complaint, you can contact the chief investigator (Julie.udell@port.ac.uk), or the Head of Department, Psychology (lucy.akehurst@port.ac.uk). If your complaint is not resolved, you can contact the University Complaints Officer (023 9284 3642, complaintsadvice@port.ac.uk).

Concluding statement

No matter if you decide to participate or not, we would like to thank you for taking the time to consider our research.



Link Up Leigh Park Project

Participant Information Sheet G01b v.1

Focus groups with young people aged 15 to 16 years old

Invitation paragraph

You are being invited to take part in group discussions alongside your friends and peers where we will talk about what it means for you to live and study in Leigh Park. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand what will happen and why your opinion is so important for us. Please take time to read the information below carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Ask us if anything is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide if you wish to take part or not.

What is the purpose of the study?

This study is part of a larger program looking at getting a better understanding of the barriers young adults aged between 16-24-years old could face in staying in education and employment. The study will also help towards designing a set of interventions that will help young adults from Leigh Park continue education, training, help access employment opportunities and secure employment.

Will I receive a reward for taking part?

Yes! Once you arrive for our group discussion you will be welcomed with refreshments and pizza! More importantly, you will receive a £5 Amazon voucher once our discussions have ended.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be asked to take part in one focus group discussion with your peers. Questions and discussions will be around your experience at school, what you would like to do in the future and what it means to live in Leigh Park. The main focus group topic guide questions will be listed on Jenga blocks that each participant in the focus group will take turns to take out of the Jenga tower

and read the question out to the rest of the group. This will help us gain a better understanding of the potential barriers young people living in Leigh Park, such as yourself, may face. If the thought of taking part in a group discussion with your peers is upsetting, you can choose to take part in an interview without your peers present. Please let us know what you prefer. The focus group session or the interview should take no longer than one hour.

Do I have to take part?

No – taking part or not is completely up to you. For example, if you think that talking about your school experiences or about what living in Leigh Park means to you may make you uncomfortable and you decide not to participate that is absolutely fine.

Are there any possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no predicted risks and disadvantages linked with participating in this study.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

This study is the first step that will help us explore and understand the potential barriers young people such as yourself may deal with. So, by taking part you will play an important role in helping us learn more about what difficulties young people living in Leigh Park are facing. You will also be helping young people better deal with potential challenges they may face in the future.

Will my taking part in the study be kept private?

Yes. We will follow good practice and all personal information that you provide will be handled in private. However, if you reveal information that raises concerns about your safety or the safety of others, we will need to report it to the Head Teacher and the school psychologist. All the personal information and all data from the focus group will be stored safely on Google drive. The Google drive will have a special password that only certain people will know (i.e. researchers). All data will be anonymous once data analysis is finished, and only anonymised data will be shared with project partners such as Havant Borough Council.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

You are welcome to stop participating at any time, without giving a reason. If you decide to stop during the focus group discussions, your data will be destroyed. Once the focus group discussions are finished you will be given a period of 7 days to remove your data if decide to do so. After the period of 7 days your data will be used for the purpose of this study, and it will not be possible to remove it.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

We will sum up the data we get from all the participants in the study, we may show the results at academic meetings, and we may use data for teaching purposes. No-one will be able to pick out the participants' own data in any reports we make. We can send out summaries of what we found at the end of the study if you wish. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you would like us to send you what we found.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The University of Portsmouth is organising the research. The research is being paid for by The Health Foundation UK, which is a research charity.

What if there is a problem?

If during the focus group discussions you have any concerns about any aspect of this study, you are advised to speak to the school's gatekeeper (Susan Parish - S.Parish@pcs.hants.sch.uk) in the first instance if this is appropriate or to the researcher leading the focus group. If you have a complaint, you can contact the chief investigator (Julie.udell@port.ac.uk), or the Head of Department, Psychology (lucy.akehurst@port.ac.uk). If your complaint is not resolved, you can contact the University Complaints Officer (023 9284 3642, complaintsadvice@port.ac.uk).

Concluding statement

No matter if you decide to participate or not, we would like to thank you for taking the time to consider our research.

Research Team:	Address:
Dr. Julie Udell julie.udell@port.ac.uk	Department of Psychology
Dr. Daphne Kaklamanou daphne.kaklamanou@port.ac.uk	University of Portsmouth
Dr. Paul Gorczynski paul.gorczynski@port.ac.uk	King Henry Building
Ruxandra Popa ruxandra.popa@port.ac.uk	King Henry 1 Street
	Portsmouth
	PO1 2DY
	T: 02392 846640