

Accessing social support for Long Covid

Interviewee Information and Consent Sheet

“Accessing social support for Long Covid” is a joint project between the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) and Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland.

Research on Long Covid so far has mainly focused on health-related concerns including people’s interactions with health services. Far less is known about the wider quality of life and wellbeing of people with Long Covid, and about their access to social support. We want to learn about how people with Long Covid have been managing their lives and what supports they have been able to access. This includes resources that might be required for people to live independently and well and engage with their communities. Through learning about what works and what does not work in the current system – we aim to influence how support and services continue to develop.

The research questions are:

1. How are people with Long Covid managing their lives and what has been the impact on their quality of life and wellbeing?
2. What support has been available to people that has helped them and what difficulties have they experienced with accessing support (this can include community-based support)?
3. What would help people with Long Covid to achieve the outcomes that matter to them and to have a good life?

You will have the opportunity to go through this information sheet with the researcher, Dr Emma Miller, and to ask her any questions you may have.

What is your involvement in the research?

This project involves interviews with adults and young people with Long Covid. You are invited to take part in a telephone or online interview with

the researcher, that will last a maximum of one hour (ideally around half an hour). We are keen to hear the experiences of people from diverse backgrounds

What will happen to the information that you provide?

It is important to emphasise that the information you provide to us will be anonymised and your personal details will not be used or be linked in any way to what you tell us about your experience. We would like to audio-record the interviews, but we will ask for your consent to do this. This is only to assist the researcher to remember what you have told us and the audio will not be heard by anyone else. The audio will also be destroyed within a week of recording. If you would prefer not to be recorded, we will respect this and we will ask to take notes instead.

Audio recordings will be transcribed for analysis by the researcher, Dr Emma Miller. Both the audio recordings and the anonymised transcripts of interviews will be kept on a secure, password-protected server. Anonymised transcripts of the interviews will be kept for three years (until 2025). The storage and use of data follows the rules set out by the European Union General Data Protection Regulation.

Will the research benefit you?

The research may not benefit you directly, but we hope that our findings will provide a better understanding of user experiences of social support for Long Covid. We also hope that findings from this project will develop an evidence base for future best practice at both local and national levels.

Further Information

Should you wish to discuss the study further prior to making a decision the team can be contacted via email or telephone.

Emma Miller, Senior Research Associate
University of Strathclyde
Email: e.miller@strath.ac.uk
Tel: 07796630922

If you have any concerns about the conduct of the research, you can contact:

Hannah Tweed, Senior Policy Officer
The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
Email: hannah.tweed@alliance-scotland.org.uk
Tel: 0141 404 0231 (switchboard)

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Consent Form: Interviewees

Please initial the boxes in the right column if you agree with the statements below:

1. I confirm that I have read and understood the information sheet.	
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason.	
3. I agree to take part in the above research.	
4. I understand that the information I provide will be collected and anonymised with a view to include in a project report, but may also be subsequently used in presentations and/or papers about this project and to inform the development of future guidance on this topic, as well as promotional/campaign materials from all research partners.	
5. I agree that information I provide can be used on the terms above.	
6. I understand that all unprocessed information will be accessed only by the researcher and that data will be securely stored and later disposed of in accordance with the European Union General data protection Regulation.	
7. I give consent for my interview to be audio-recorded.	

Participant Name:

Signature:

Date:

Researcher Name:

Signature:

Date:

Please sign and return this copy to the researcher.