

Fostering digital skills for life project

Online anonymous survey- Participant Information Sheet



We would like to invite you to take part in the “Fostering Digital Skills” project. The project will examine the potential usefulness of differing online training packages aiming to improve the digital skills and knowledge of professionals supporting children and young people with care experience in their online lives. This is important as evidence suggests that children and young people who experience vulnerabilities offline can be more at risk online. This places increased importance on the support from the community of adults around them and means the quality of the education and training given to these adults’ is vital.

This Participant Information Sheet tells you why the project is being done and provides details about what it would involve for you if you chose to take part. Please read it carefully and ask questions about anything that you do not understand or want to know more about. Participation in this research project is voluntary.

By giving your consent you are telling us that you:

- ✓ Understand what you have read;
- ✓ Agree to take part in the research project as outlined below;
- ✓ Agree to the use of your personal information as described;
- ✓ You have received a copy of this Participant Information Statement to keep.

Who is running the project?

This project is being led by The Fostering Network in partnership with Internet Matters and Dr Simon P Hammond from the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, University of East Anglia (UEA). The project has been funded by Nominet’s ‘Public Benefit’ grant scheme. As part of the funding proposal, Dr Simon P Hammond and Dr Kimberley Bartholomew will oversee the evaluation of this project.

Why have I been sent this information?

You have been invited to participate in this project because we believe you are about to take part in an online training course to support your digital skills and knowledge.

Do I have to take part in the research project to take part in the training?

No, it is up to you. This will not affect you or your participation in the training.

What will happen if I choose to take part?

- 1) Prior to undertaking the online training, we would like to you click on the following survey link https://ueapsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_73BJxi41aNWILGe
- 2) This will take you to a survey. The first question will ask you to **“supply the last two letters of your first name and last three letters of your place of birth”**. This information will allow us to link your data across the different time point you enter whilst keeping your contribution anonymous. It is very important you are able to remember this information and enter it each time we ask you to provide us with some data.
- 3) After this question, you will be asked to share with us (1) who you are; (ii) how you currently support a young person with care experience in their digital lives and (iii) about

the emotional health of this young person. This will allow us to investigate links between online and offline risks and if the training impacts these.

- 4) Following completion of this survey, you will undertake the online training package.
- 5) Within 0-7 days of completing the course, we will send you an email reminder and ask you to answer a smaller number of the same questions again. Please remember to re-enter the last two letters of your first name and last three letters of your place of birth. At this point we will ask you if you would like to take part in small group conversation about the course, you do not have to agree to this, and we send information to those who express an interest.
- 6) Finally, 3 months after completing the course we send you a final email reminder an email reminder and ask you to answer a smaller number of the same questions again. This will take you to the final survey. Again, please remember to re-enter the last two letters of your first name and last three letters of your place of birth when sharing with us your answers.

How much time will the project take?

In total, this should take less than 25 minutes. The first survey should take around 10 minutes, with the second and third surveys taking 5 minutes each.

Are there any risks in taking part?

Taking part in this project should not cause you any problems. We are not evaluating you or your practice, we are interested in finding if, and how, the training course has helped, or not.

Are there any benefits in taking part?

There are no direct benefits, but this research may help us make the training course better and provide knowledge to improve this, and in turn, improve the way we support children and young people with care experience in the future.

What happens if I do not want to carry on?

You may stop your involvement in the project at any time. We will keep all information you have shared with us until this point, but we will collect no further information. Your decision not to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at The Fostering Network, University of East Anglia or Internet Matters.

What if there is a problem?

The ethical aspects of this project have been approved under the regulations of the University of East Anglia's School of Education and Lifelong Learning Research Ethics Committee. If you are unhappy about any aspect of this please contact Dr Simon P Hammond on s.hammond@uea.ac.uk or School of Education and Lifelong Learning, University of East Anglia, Norwich. NR4 7TJ.

If you remain concerned about the way this project is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the project, please contact the Head of the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, Prof Yann Lebeau on Y.Lebeau@uea.ac.uk.

What happens when the project is finished?

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to the research team collecting personal information about you for the purposes of this research project. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Sheet (pages 1-3 of this document). Your information will be stored securely.

Data management will follow the 2018 General Data Protection Regulation Act and the University of East Anglia Research Data Management Policy (2019). We would also like to use the anonymized datasets to assist in future research (e.g. secondary data analysis) and teaching activities. This means that though we may use your data for these activities, you will not be identifiable in any way.

Will I be told the results of the project?

The results of the 'fostering digital skills for life' project will be available to the public once data collection, analysis and peer-review have taken place. This can take some time. However, please contact Dr Simon P Hammond on s.hammond@uea.ac.uk if you wish to receive a 1-page overview of initial results of the project after November 2023.

I want to take part, what do I do next?

If you are happy and consent to take part in the project simply access the questionnaire at this website https://ueapsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_73BJxi41aNWILGe or using the QR code below and answer the questions. By submitting your responses you are agreeing to the researcher using the data collected for the purposes described above.



Please keep the information sheet for your information.