

Care experience as a protected characteristic: Scoping and peer knowledge exchange –
Survey Information Sheet 2026

You are being invited to take part in a survey as part of Research in Practice’s study on care experience as a protected characteristic. This work is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important to understand why the research is being carried out and what it will involve. Please take time to read this information carefully. If you do want to take part, please use the survey link at the bottom of the page.

Research information

Purpose of the research:	Over 100 councils have passed motions to give legal protection against discrimination on the basis of care experience. This research is a scoping study to learn more about the ways in which care is recognised as a protected characteristic and impacts for care-experienced people in these local areas.
Why have I been invited to participate?	You are invited to take part because you work for, or with, a council in England that has recognised care experience as a protected characteristic. We want to hear about how this commitment is being implemented and experienced in different areas. The survey will ask about your views on the recognition of care experience as a protected characteristic and examples of how this is happening in your local area. You should not share identifiable, personal details about the families and individuals you have worked with in answers. Specific issues (such as complaints or safeguarding concerns) should be raised through your services’ appropriate channels.
How can I take part?	If you would like to complete the online survey use the link in the email.
Do I have to take part?	No. You can decide whether or not to take part. You can answer some questions and leave others. Your job and role at work will not be affected whatever you decide. No identifying information will be used in reporting or shared outside the research team.
What are the possible benefits of taking part?	Your contributions will add to the sector’s understanding of uses and impacts of recognising care experience as a protected characteristic; and share learning around the challenges and opportunities of meaningful implementation.

	Furthermore, your contributions will help to inform the content discussed at knowledge exchange focus groups with young people in care, care experienced adults and professionals in the next stage of our study.
Will what I say in the study be confidential?	Individual responses to the survey will only be available to be viewed and analysed by the team at Research in Practice. We will report on themes and key issues from the survey responses. Short quotations from your comments may also be used in reporting the research. We will remove identifiable information (e.g. names, job roles) and highly specific details. At the end of the survey, there is an option to provide your contact details for the purpose of attending a focus groups. If you choose to consent, we will only use your contact details for this purpose. If you would like us to delete contact details that you have shared, contact us at any time (email addresses are below).
How will you keep my information safe?	The information you give us will be kept safe as our research follows the law on data protection. These laws are the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. All personal information like names and contact details and research data will be stored securely. It will be deleted 6 months after completion of the project. Our privacy notice is available here.
What if I change my mind?	If you change your mind, please contact us at any of the addresses below. We will work with you to find and withdraw your information from the research where possible. However, if you have not provided your name or email address, we may not be able to identify your survey response to withdraw your answers. Once the survey responses have been combined and analysed for the research report it will not be possible to identify and remove individual data.
Who will see the end results of this research?	Anonymised information and findings from the research may be used in published reports, presentations/events, and shared in other communications.

Research title:	Care experience as a protected characteristic: Scoping and peer knowledge exchange
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[Complete the survey here](#)