

Research Summary	
Researchers	The University of Birmingham
Principal Investigator	Dr Jason Schaub
Protocol Author(s)	Dr Jason Schaub – Principal Investigator, University of Birmingham Prof Paul Montgomery – Co-investigator, University of Birmingham Dr Willem Stander – Research Fellow, University of Birmingham
Research Participants	Up to 20 LGBTQ+ young people (aged 16 to 25) who have been, or are in, residential social care.
Protocol Date	03/09/2021
Version	1

Summary

This document outlines a qualitative study examining the experiences of LGBTQ+ young people in residential social care.

The LGBTQ+ Young People in Social Care project will qualitatively assess the experiences of LGBTQ+ youth in residential care. While we have some understanding of the difficulties of LGBTQ+ young people's lives, there are significant gaps in our understanding, particularly about their social care experiences. This project will be the first in the UK to gather experiences of LGBTQ+ young people that have lived in residential social care. Using online semi-structured interviews, this study will explore their experiences of extra-familial care and whether LGBTQ+ young people in residential care have particular needs.

The study length is 12 weeks (August - September 2021), with the final report published in October 2021.

Background and Problem Statement

While the What Works Centres are focused on projects aiming to assess causality, this work is based earlier in the evidence-based pathway and uses qualitative methodology. Before we can develop effective interventions, we need to understand the nature of the problem – in this situation, how LGBTQ+ young people experience residential care. Given that this study is situated in an arena with no directly applicable empirical evidence, it is important to develop understanding about users' lives so as to help us develop interventions to improve

them.

There are substantial gaps in our knowledge about LGBTQ+ lives and how their experiences affect their health and wellbeing outcomes. This is particularly true about LGBTQ+ young people, who report significantly higher levels of bullying (Bradlow et al., 2017), substance misuse (Marshall et al., 2008), mental health issues (Semlyen et al., 2016), suicidality (Miranda-Mendizábal et al., 2017), homelessness (AKT, 2015), and issues with family and community (Bouris et al., 2010) compared to their heterosexual and/or cisgender counterparts. Furthermore, the interaction of sexuality and gender (identity) also lead to different continuation and attainment rates in higher education settings among LGBTQ+ youth. The continuation rate of LGBTQ+ entrants is lower than that of heterosexual students (Office for Students, 2020), and lesbian and bisexual women are less likely to obtain a bachelor's degree (Fine, 2015).

There are some studies about LGBTQ+ young people's experience of social care, and a small number about their experiences of foster care (Broad, 2005; Centre for Research on Children and Families, 2017; Dale et al., 2010; Schofield et al., 2019). The bulk of the findings currently available are from North America (Mallon, 1997; Poirier et al., 2018), but the policy and cultural context makes directly applying this knowledge problematic. We are not aware of any published British studies examining LGBTQ+ young people's experience of residential social care. Without robust evidence, it is difficult (or impossible) to design services that meet their needs.

This research will provide important information about the lives and needs of LGBTQ+ young people in residential care. Given the absence of other data, the findings will be a key building block for further studies and interventions for LGBTQ+ young people in social care.

Expected intermediate outcomes include:

- a scoping review of literature to provide a robust evaluation of knowledge about LGBTQ young people in care drawing from the best UK and international literature; and,
- an established advisory group to include young advisors, key stakeholder groups and academics.

Final outcomes include:

- Findings which will address a key gap in the knowledge base, which can support the development of interventions.

Intervention and Theory of Change

Residential care providers deliver institutional parenting in lieu of standard parental and familial care to ensure the development of the child. The care includes oversight of the health, education, social and emotional care of the child as well as all aspects of their upbringing, such as supporting engagement with birth and extended family. Outcomes are positive results in all these domains irrespective of subgroups such as place of residence, race/ethnicity/culture/language, gender/sex, religion, education, socioeconomic status, social capital, personal characteristics associated with discrimination (e.g. age, disability), features

of relationships (e.g. smoking parents, excluded from school), time-dependent relationships (e.g. leaving the hospital, respite care, other instances where a person may be temporarily at a disadvantage) (cf O'Neill et al, 2014).

Research questions

The qualitative study aims to address the following three research questions:

- What are the experiences of LGBTQ+ young people in residential care?
- Do LGBTQ young people in residential care have particular needs and, if so, what are those?
- What are the implications of cultural matching for LGBTQ+ young people in residential care? (Cultural matching is when young people are placed with carers that match their cultural or ethnic identities)

Methods

Sample selection and recruitment

The research sample will include up to 20 participants according to the following inclusion criteria:

- Identify as LGBTQ+ (i.e., as a sexual and/or gender minority person)
- Young person (16 – 25 years old)
- Have been, or are in, residential care in England for at least 3 months at some point during their care journey.

Because of their often-fractured care arrangements, this population can be hard-to-reach and obscured within the general population of young people in care and young people more generally. As a result, the research team will engage with partners to help recruit participants (such as Principal Social Worker Network; VOICE; DfE leader's forum; Association of Directors of Children's Services; LGBTQ+ support organisations such as Stonewall). We are currently collaborating with most of these groups and anticipate that recruitment to these numbers should not be problematic. In addition, the research team have a robust social media presence and will also circulate recruitment materials online. Participants will be told about potential topics beforehand and informed consent will be sought prior to the interview stage (see appendices). Participants will self-select to participate.

Recruitment materials will be scrutinised by relevant stakeholders to ensure accessibility, including a young advisory group of three individuals who share similar demographic characteristics to the research sample. Social media materials – such as twitter flyers – will include alternative text to images to assist those who are visually impaired.

Data Collection

The data will be gathered using semi-structured life history interviews to be conducted online with approximately 20 participants from across England. The interview schedule has been developed by University of Birmingham researchers, drawing on the available evidence to generate draft interview questions, and will be piloted and scrutinised by stakeholders and the young persons' advisory group before data collection commences. Interviews will be conducted by researchers from the University of Birmingham and What Works Centre for

Children’s Social Care (WWCSC) virtually, using a platform that is amenable to the participant (e.g., Zoom, MS Teams) with each session lasting between 45 to 90 minutes. Each interview will be recorded using Zoom/Teams recording functions. The transcription of the interviews will be done by an externally contracted transcription service. Building rapport with participants, reassuring them of the researchers’ independence, and clearly explaining the confidential nature of the research will help to ensure we get a more open response from participants about their experiences. We will build this rapport through a robust pre-interview communication strategy that will include clear communication and a swift process from first contact to interview.

In summary, pilot data will be captured through:

Data Collection Method	Sample Size	Collection Timeline
Semi-structured life history interviews	20 care-experienced LGBTQ+ Young People	August 2021 – September 2021

Analysis

Interviews will be recorded, transcribed and pseudonymised prior to analysis. The qualitative data collected as part of this research will be analysed using NVivo software and a thematic analysis approach by University of Birmingham researchers. This form of data analysis is recommended when analysing data from a more applied setting and when the research team has a variety of experience, both of which are relevant to this study (Braun and Clarke, 2014). This will involve familiarisation, checking accuracy of transcription, labelling the data with descriptive codes and generating themes which describe patterns across the data to answer our pre-specified research questions, as well as assessing key factors important across stakeholder groups.

Ethics

This study has sought ethics approval from University of Birmingham’s general ethics committee (ERN_21-0809), outlining the below ethical challenges and mechanisms to resolve. All researchers collecting direct data will be subject to DBS checks and trained in safeguarding procedures. Given this study’s engagement with vulnerable young people, informed consent, debrief support, and confidentiality/anonymity are key considerations.

Informed Consent

Risk: Given participants' potential vulnerability, obtaining voluntary and fully informed consent is essential – this is important so that potential participants do not take part in the expectation of receiving more robust social care provision.

Mitigation: Participants will be informed that taking part (or refusing/withdrawing) will have no impact on their social care provision. During recruitment, expectations of participation will be clearly explained (a single virtual interview), as well as an incentive and that participants

can withdraw with no impact, that participation will not result in an improved social care provision, and an information sheet will be provided. The information sheet and consent form outline the study aims, confidentiality and explains that all information will be protected, as well as limits to confidentiality in cases of safeguarding concern (see appendices). The participant information sheet describes the objectives of the research project, the importance of gaining informed consent, guarantees and limits of confidentiality of the data and how the information will be used. Participants are encouraged to ask any questions before the interview to ensure that they are fully aware of what is involved and how this will affect them.

During interviews, if any participant appears to be uncomfortable with continuing, they will be asked whether they wish to continue or end the interview. If they appear too upset to continue, the interviewer will conclude the interview and provide immediate support as well as connecting them to relevant support services (see debrief support below).

After the interview is completed, participants will be asked to confirm that they are willing to be included in the study and offered an opportunity to retract their data, as well as outlining the further opportunities for withdrawing their participation. Lastly, there will be a final explanation of the mechanisms by which their identities would be protected by anonymising identifying characteristics in all publications.

Debrief Support

Risk: Participants will be discussing their experiences of social care, which has the potential to be emotionally upsetting or distressing. There is a small chance that participants will find discussing their care experience upsetting, in particular in relation to how their sexual and gender identity was supported.

Mitigation: Interviewers are experienced researchers, with experience of interviewing vulnerable individuals, and will work to reduce the strain of discussing difficult history. As previously discussed, participants will be asked whether they wish to continue or end the interview should they appear uncomfortable or emotionally distressed during the interviews. If they appear too upset to continue, the interviewer will conclude the interview and provide immediate support, as well as connecting them to relevant support services. These relevant support services will be pre-organised and will include general options (GP, CAMHS, etc.), bespoke options (social worker or personal advisor), national LGBTQ young people support charities (e.g., Stonewall, AKT) as well as more general supports for young people receiving social care services (e.g., LGBTQ+ Youth in Care, Voice of Young People in Care or VOYPIC, Coram Voice etc.). If issues arise during the interviews that suggest a need for additional specialist support, the interviews will identify these to the participant, either at the time, or in follow-up communication.

Confidentiality/Anonymity

Risk: Guarantees of confidentiality are essential for successful interviews with young people, and particularly so for those with experiences of social care.

Mitigation:

Data will remain confidential with only one exception, if participants describe a safeguarding concern (either as a victim or perpetrator). If situations like these are mentioned, the interviewer will discuss with the Principal Investigator, depending on the situation, relevant professionals can be informed (including social care and police). The participant will be informed, unless there is a chance that doing so will jeopardise an investigation or the safeguarding of a person.

Data Protection

This qualitative study follows the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. It also adheres to the University of Birmingham's Data Protection Policy, Information and Security Management Policy (compatible with ISO27001 and other related standards), Research Data Management Policy, and its Code of Practice for Research. A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for this study will be completed by WWCS.

The University of Birmingham and WWCS are joint Data Controllers and Data Processors on this study.

Data subjects / purposes

Data will include demographic and interview data in order to understand LGBTQ+ young people's experience in residential care. Subjects in this study will include up to 20 LGBTQ+ young people that are currently, or who have recently, been in residential care of an English local authority. This study will collect special categories of data revealing sexual orientation and racial or ethnic origin. This data is essential to the study, as it relates to the central topic and identifying potential mediators. There is no other published study of this population and findings from this research will hold important service implications for how services are constructed to support and work with this population. Other types of personal data will include:

- Age
- Email address
- Location / Home address
- Phone number
- Name
- Status as a Child in Need, on a Child Protection Plan or Child Looked After

The legal basis for processing Shared Personal Data and Special Categories of Shared Personal Data by the joint Data Controllers is as follows:

- The lawful basis for processing by the University of Birmingham is GDPR Article 6.1(e) public task and GDPR Article 9.2(j) archiving, research and statistics (with a basis in law).
- The lawful basis for processing by the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care is GDPR Article 6.1(e) public task and GDPR Article 9.2(j) archiving, research and statistics (with a basis in law).

In addition to this, Data Subjects will be required to provide explicit informed consent in line with the GDPR and the University of Birmingham's Data Protection Policy. These processes are outlined to Data Subjects in the participant information sheet and the University of Birmingham's privacy notice (see appendices).

Data transfer

With regards to data transfer, data will be transferred to the University of Birmingham from WWCS; however, no data will be transferred from the University of Birmingham to WWCS. The data to be transferred from WWCS to the University of Birmingham is necessary to achieve the aims and objectives of the project. This will include conducting and sharing 5 qualitative interviews so they may be thematically analysed by the University of Birmingham (along with 15 interviews undertaken by the University of Birmingham) to further the key aims of the study:

- Exploring the socially constructed experiences of LGBTQ+ young people who are in, or have been in residential care, and how these experiences relate to their sexual or gender minority.
- Examining issues related to cultural matching of young people in care to their carers.

All data connected with the project will be retained no longer than is necessary by WWCS to complete a secure data transfer to the University of Birmingham OneDrive account via a shared link so they may use the data for its intended purposes.

Data will also be transferred between the University of Birmingham and an externally contracted transcription service. An appropriate Data Sharing and Transcription Confidentiality Agreement between the two organisations will be put in place before this process is initiated.

Data protection / storage

All data will be stored on the University of Birmingham's OneDrive for Business account. The platform's security and encryption features comply with the University's security standards. Interview participants will be referred to by a number, with contact and demographic information stored separately to ensure confidentiality and anonymity. When reporting, either in reports or academic publications, all identifying characteristics will be removed to ensure participants are not able to be identified. Only the University of Birmingham research team will have access to the data. Data will be stored for up to 10 years, as per the University of Birmingham's policy. WWCS remain joint Data Controllers with the University until March 2024 after which time the University of Birmingham will become independent controllers of the data.

Data protection officer contact details:

The University's Data Protection Officer, Carolyn Pike, can be contacted using the information provided:

The Data Protection Officer
Legal Services
The University of Birmingham

Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT
Email: dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)121 414 3916

Personnel

Dr Jason Schaub, Principal Investigator, University of Birmingham

Dr Jason Schaub will be leading on the design and analysis.

Prof Paul Montgomery, Co-Investigator, University of Birmingham

Prof Paul Montgomery will support the design, analysis and write-up.

Dr Willem Stander, Research Fellow, University of Birmingham

Willem Stander will be leading the data collection and will support the analysis and write-up, as well as provide administrative support.

Clare Clancy, WWCSO Programmes Manager

Clare Clancy will be providing research and data collection support.

Risks

This section outlines the anticipated risks that may arise and steps that will be taken to mitigate against these.

Risk	Mitigation
Participant interviews start later than planned <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Likelihood: Medium● Impact: Medium	Regular meetings between University of Birmingham researchers and WWCSO to check progress / highlight any delays and adjust timelines if necessary.
Not enough participants are identified for the study <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Likelihood: Medium● Impact: High	Relationships to be built with relevant support organisations and residential homes with enough time for young people to ask questions or for the researchers to seek additional homes if not enough young people want to participate.
Interviews have potential to cause emotional distress to participants <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Likelihood: Medium● Impact: High	Positive relationships to be built with young people. Full ethics approval granted and consent forms and information sheets provided. Sensitivity from researchers at all times, and

	outline consent as well as the option to leave the interview at any time clearly from the start.
Final report delayed due to timeline issues which could impact the start of Study 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likelihood: Medium • Impact: Medium 	Regular meetings between University of Birmingham researchers and WWCSO to check progress and adjust timelines if necessary.

Timeline

The study length will be over a period of 12 weeks, from August to September 2021, with reporting concluded by end of October 2021.

Phase	Timings	Lead
Project set-up		
Identify and send information to young advisors contacts	August 2021	UoB
Trial protocol published	03/09/2021	WWCSO
Identify participants for interview	August-September 2021	UoB
Project delivery		
Conduct 20 interviews	Completed by 24/09/2021	WWCSO/UoB
Review of evidence	Completed by 15/09/2021	UOB
Project finished		
Report submitted to WWCSO	08/10/2021	UoB
Report Q & A by WWCSO	15/10/2021	WWCSO

Comments incorporated, and final report published	22/10/2021	UOB/WWCSC Comms
Dissemination and consensus meeting	29/10/2021	UoB/WWCSC

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Participant Information Sheet and Consent form

Experiences of LGBTQ+ Youth in Residential Care

Thank you for your interest in our research. In this study, we want to know what it is like for LGBTQ+ young people to live in residential social care. The aim of the research is to learn what your experience is/was of the different homes you have lived in, the services you have used, and how your experience changed over time.

Taking part will involve a 1-hour conversation with a researcher over Zoom or MS Teams which will involve us asking questions based on the research aims discussed above. We would like to record the interview. If you would rather we did not make an audio recording of your interview that is ok, and we will not do this. However, we will need to record written notes in this instance.

Your views will be included in a report we write that will be published by our funder '*What Works Centre for Children's Social Care*', and possibly in other publications and teaching. It is possible that this will include direct lines from your interviews, but we will be careful that no one will be able to identify you. Anything that might possibly make it easy to identify you will be changed. Confidentiality will be ensured by giving you a false name. If you would like a copy of the report, please let us know. Anything you say will remain confidential except if you disclose abuse, illegal or dangerous activities that are currently a concern, the researcher will need to discuss this with the relevant organisations, which may include social services.

After reading this information and once the researcher has explained the study to you, if you agree to being involved please sign the attached consent form. It will also be signed by the researcher and a copy will be given to you. Put a cross by any parts you are happy to consent to. You can end the interview or take a break at any point.

If you decide now to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time before the end of September 2021 without giving a reason. All the information we gather from you will be kept securely locked away and be kept for use in publications and destroyed after 10 years (University of Birmingham policy).

It is important to note that taking part in this research is entirely your own choice. You are free to withdraw your personal and interview data without giving a reason. You can do this up until the point the research team begins analysing the data. Taking part or refusing to take part in the research will not affect the service you receive from your social care provider. If you refuse, you will not be disadvantaged in any way.

If at any time you wish to contact us you can reach me directly at the e-mail or number below, or please tell your social worker you would like me to contact you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Willem Stander
w.stander@bham.ac.uk

Consent form

Please put a "X" inside each box that you agree with.

- I voluntarily agree to take part in this study.
- I have been given a full explanation of the project and I have read and understand the information given to me above.
- I am happy for the interview to be audio-recorded and transcribed.
- I am happy for the researcher to interview me on my own, at a time when it suits me.
- I am happy for the researchers to use the results of my participation in the study but not my name or anything that could identify me.
- I understand that I can ask for further instructions or explanations at any time.
- I understand that I am free to withdraw from the study at any time before 30 September 2021, without having to give a reason for withdrawing.
- I understand that during the project all data will be stored in a secure location and accessed only by the research team. It will be preserved and accessible for ten years following completion of the research.
- I understand that the researcher is required to report any concerns they have about significant harm to social care.

Participant's Signature (or electronic signature):

Date:

Participant Code:

Researcher's Signature (or electronic signature):

Date:

Appendix 2: Young People Interview Schedule

Young People Interview Schedule

**Note to researchers/interviewers:*

- Remember to record the Zoom session – if in person, make sure to record the audio.
- Ensure time, date and participant number are on the interview form.
- When using Zoom and typing notes please **mute** yourself so keystroke sounds are not recorded.
 - o Maintain a relaxed environment and style of conversation throughout the entire interview.
 - o If either the researchers or participant feels uncomfortable the interview can be stopped at any moment. If participant appears distressed or uncomfortable by the line of questioning, ask them whether they want to continue, need a break or want to end interview. Ask this even if they don't appear distressed or upset at some point during the interview.
 - o Do not feel the need to fill silences – give participants chance to think, reflect and pause without interruption.

Research question reminder:

What are the experiences of LGBTQ+ young people in residential care?

Do LGBTQ+ young people in residential care have particular needs and, if so, what are those?

What are the implications of cultural matching for LGBTQ+ young people in residential care?

Section 1: Introduction

Interviewers introduce themselves with pronouns and brief relevant personal background.

Thank participant for their time and engagement - outline aims of study.

Outline recording, consent and withdrawal.

Describe transcript checking.

Explain about discomfort and distress.

Ensure consent form is signed.

- Do you have any questions at all?
- Are you happy to start the interview and for it to be recorded?

-Begin recording-

Participant Number:

Demographic information:

- ethnicity
- religion
- age
- location
- Can you please describe your gender identity and sexuality?

Could you broadly outline your experience of residential social care?

- Prompts:
- How long have you (or did you) live in residential care?
 - How many different residential homes did you live in? Were you in other types of care (such as foster care)? If so, how did residential care compare?
 - What are some events that have impacted on your experience of being in care?

Can you describe how you came to be in residential care?

- Prompts:
- What were the reasons you entered residential care?
 - Have you retained a connection with your parents / biological family? Can you describe it briefly?
 - What is your relationship like with your parents / family?

Can you describe your relationship with staff at the residential home(s)?

- Prompts:
- Were there any residential staff that make you feel that they are easy to talk to?
 - Can you explain why this was the case?

Did you feel supported/unsupported within your residential homes to express your gender identity or sexuality? How did this feel?

What was your experience of coming out whilst in residential care?

- Prompts:
- What were the reasons why you decided this approach?
 - What were your experiences of how residential staff and other young people in the home responded to your gender identity or sexuality/orientation?

What sorts of support did you receive or support about your LGBTQ+ identity or coming out whilst in residential care?

Prompts: Were any more / less helpful? Why?
What sorts of support do you think would have been helpful?

Can you outline your experience of having a social worker?

Prompts: What support services were helpful (and why)?
Which were not helpful (and why)?
Can you think of any services or support that may have been helpful that weren't available or offered to you?

If you had a magic wand, what sorts of changes would you make to improve residential care LGBTQ+ young people? Why these changes?

Topics:

These topics are to be considered throughout the above questions. They are over-arching considerations for young people in care, and particularly prominent for LGBTQ+ young people. Follow up on these when raised in the above responses. If there are no descriptions of any of these, ask about them in turn.

Substance / alcohol misuse	Exploitation
Professionals' responses	Family relationships
Friends	Employment / Education
Mental health	Partners

Appendix 3: Privacy notice

The purpose of this privacy notice explains how the University of Birmingham's LGBTQ+ Young People in Social Care research project uses the personal data it collects and processes. We are committed to protecting the privacy and security of the personal data we collect and process as part of this project.

Who we are

The LGBTQ+ Young People in Social Care project includes two linked studies: the first will qualitatively assess the experiences of LGBTQ+ youth in residential care, the second will evaluate an LGBTQ+ training programme for social workers working with LGBTQ+ young people. This project is a collaboration between the University of Birmingham and [What Works for Children's Social Care](#) (WWCSC). Our approach is collaborative and co-produced. We work closely with various stakeholder groups that are part of – or attached to – the LGBTQ+ youth population groups, such as young people, carers, social workers, policymakers, and representative organisations. Outputs from this study will help move forward strategies to improve the experiences of LGBTQ+ young people in social care settings.

Our research is conducted in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation Act (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. We also follow University of Birmingham's policies, including its Data Protection Policy, Information and Security Management Policy (compatible with ISO27001 and other related standards), Research Data Management Policy, and its Code of Practice for Research. All of our research is also reviewed and approved by an independent Research Ethics Committee.

The University of Birmingham and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care are joint Data Controllers and Data Processors for the purposes of GDPR on this research project.

How does this privacy notice relate to other privacy notices?

When you are/were invited to take part, you will be/have been provided with a document called a Participant Information Sheet which is an ethically approved document which provides information about the trial, the information collected and processed, where it is collected from, what your involvement will be and how your data will be handled. It will also explain if other organisations are involved and what their roles are.

What personal and special category data will be processed?

Information relating to study 1 – LGBTQ+ Young People's in Residential Care

Data will include demographic and interview data in order to understand LGBTQ+ young people's experiences of residential social care. Data Subjects in this study will include up to 20 LGBTQ+ young people who are currently, or have been, in residential care of an English local authority. The aim of this study is to explore the experiences of LGBTQ+ youth who live in residential care, and better understand the barriers to progress and specific challenges they face. The data we will collect and process include:

- Your Name
- Your Age
- Your Address
- Your Sexual Orientation
- Your Gender
- Your Racial or Ethnic Origin

- Your Phone Number
- Location / Home address
- Phone number
- Status as a Child in Need, on a Child Protection Plan or Child Looked After
- Interview answers

Some of the data we process is classed as 'special category' or sensitive personal data. This includes data revealing your sexual orientation and racial or ethnic origin. This data is essential to the study, as it relates to the central topic and identifying potential mediators. There is no other published study of this population and findings from this research will hold important service implications for how services are constructed to support and work with this population.

What is the legal basis for the processing?

The legal basis for processing Shared Personal Data and Special Categories of Shared Personal Data by the joint Data Controllers is as follows:

- The lawful basis for processing by the University of Birmingham is GDPR Article 6.1(e) public task and GDPR Article 9.2(j) archiving, research and statistics (with a basis in law).
- The lawful basis for processing by the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care is GDPR Article 6.1(e) public task and GDPR Article 9.2(j) archiving, research and statistics (with a basis in law).

This means that you as a participant have rights that we agree to uphold, even about this special category data, and that we have outlined with you what data will be gathered, how it will be used, your rights of withdrawal, and when we will dispose of all the data.

Who will your personal data be shared with?

Within the University, the data is shared only with those University staff who need access for the purpose of delivering our academic and non-academic services and facilities. Participant personal data is shared as is necessary, on a considered and confidential basis, with several external organisations which assist the University with processing your information. These organisations act on our behalf in accordance with our instructions and do not process your data for any purpose over and above what we have asked them to do. We make sure we have appropriate contracts in place with them.

With regards to data transfer, demographic and interview data will be transferred to the University of Birmingham from the WWCS; however, no data will be transferred from the University of Birmingham to the WWCS. The data to be transferred from WWCS to the University of Birmingham is necessary to achieve the aims and objectives of the project. This will include the processing of 5 qualitative interviews so they may be thematically analysed by the University of Birmingham (along with 15 interviews undertaken by the University of Birmingham) to further the key aims of the study. All data connected with the project will be retained no longer than is necessary by the WWCS to complete a secure data transfer to the University of Birmingham so they may use the data for its intended purposes.

Some data will also be transferred between the University of Birmingham and an external transcription service. An appropriate Data Sharing and Transcription Confidentiality Agreement with the transcription service will be put in place before this process is initiated.

Outside of the data sharing requirements described above, we do not share personal data with any other third party without the express permission of the data subject or as permitted by data protection law. Participants are not identified in any report, presentation or publication arising from the data.

How will your data be stored?

All data will be stored on the University of Birmingham's OneDrive account. The platform's security and encryption features comply with the University's security standards. Interview participants will be referred to by a number, with contact and demographic information stored separately to ensure confidentiality and anonymity. When reporting, either in reports or academic publications, all identifying characteristics will be removed to ensure participants are not able to be identified. Only the University of Birmingham research team will have access to the data.

How long is your data kept for?

As stated earlier, the University of Birmingham and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care are joint Data Controllers and Data Processors. As per the data sharing agreement between our two organisations, data kept by the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care will be stored until March 2024. At this point, the University of Birmingham will become the independent or sole Data Controller and have full responsibility for the data. Data kept by the University of Birmingham will be stored for up to 10 years (until September 2031) as per the University's policy.

Your rights as a data subject

Details about your rights are set out on the website page '[Data Protection – How the University Uses Your Data](#)'. Where we are using your personal data with your consent, you can only withdraw your consent and personal data before data analysis commences. After this point, it becomes impossible to completely remove your data from the larger dataset.

Our webpage '[Data Protection – How the University Uses Your Data](#)' also explains how to ask any questions you may have about how your personal data is used, exercise any of your rights or complain about the way your data is being handled and provides the contact details for the University's Information Compliance Manager, who will handle any data protection queries or requests.

Are changes made to this webpage?

This privacy notice is effective from 03/09/2021. It is reviewed when necessary and at least annually. Any changes will be published on this webpage.

Exercising your rights, queries and complaints

If you have any questions about any aspect of this privacy notice, you can contact us using the information provided below quoting 'LGBTQ+ Young People in Social Care' in the subject or body of the email.

If you have questions related to the project, please contact:

Dr Willem Stander

Research Fellow

Email: w.stander@bham.ac.uk

If you would like more information on your rights, or would like to exercise any right, or have any queries relating to the University's processing of your personal data, please contact:

The Information Compliance Manager

Legal Services

The University of Birmingham

Edgbaston

Birmingham

B15 2TT

Email: dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)121 414 3916

If you wish to make a complaint about how your data is being or has been processed, please contact our Data Protection Officer:

The Data Protection Officer

Legal Services

The University of Birmingham

Edgbaston

Birmingham

B15 2TT

Email: dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)121 414 3916