

Food Poverty Needs Assessment: Understanding Service Provision in Hertfordshire

Participant Information Sheet: Hertfordshire Resident

As someone who lives in the Hertfordshire, you are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to do so, it is important that you understand the research that is being conducted and what your involvement will mean. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

What is the purpose of this study?

Researchers from the University of Hertfordshire are working with Hertfordshire County Council to find out about how services across Hertfordshire are currently supporting people who are experiencing food poverty. We are also interested in your experiences of using these services and how you accessed them.

Do I have to take part?

It is completely up to you whether or not you take part in this study. Agreeing to join the study does not mean that you have to complete it. You are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason. A decision to withdraw or not to take part for any reason will not affect you or your care in any way.

What will happen if I take part?

If you agree, we will ask to arrange an interview to talk to you about your experiences. **Due to the ongoing social distancing measures related to Covid-19, no one will ask to meet with you in person.** All interviews will be organised remotely (e.g. via telephone, MS Teams or Zoom). A researcher will contact you to discuss what the research involves and to arrange an interview with you. The interview will be arranged at a time that is convenient for you. The length of the interview will depend on how much you have to say, but we will allow a minimum of 45 minutes.

What are the benefits of taking part?

The research will help us to understand how people are managing with food at this difficult time, and how you have experienced services in Hertfordshire. This is also an opportunity for you to tell us about your views and experiences of support services in Hertfordshire. You will also receive a voucher as reimbursement for your time.

Will the information I provide be confidential?

Yes, any information you provide will be treated as confidential. Any information that could potentially identify you will be anonymised or removed. **We will ensure that no information can be linked to you personally.** The only exception to this is if we are concerned for your or someone else's safety.

With your permission, we would like to audio record our conversation with you. The recording and any personal data (e.g. names and addresses) will be stored securely on a password protected server at the University of Hertfordshire. Any personal information will only be accessible by the research team. Anonymous data (i.e. without personal or identifying details) will be archived and may be used in future research studies that have been granted ethical approval by the University of Hertfordshire.

What will happen to the findings from this research study?

The main purpose of this study is to contribute to a Food Poverty Needs Assessment for Hertfordshire County Council. The findings will be used to improve access to support services for those who experience food poverty living in Hertfordshire. The research team may also write articles and conference presentations and use the report when teaching at the university. We can explain this in more detail when we talk to you. **You will not be identifiable in anything we write about this study.**

Who is carrying out the study?

This study is being carried out by the research team at The University of Hertfordshire. This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Hertfordshire Health, Science, Engineering and Technology Ethics Committee with Delegated Authority. **The UH Ethics protocol number is: HSK/SF/UH/04487.**

This research is supported by Hertfordshire County Council and the research team is funded to work with HCC by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR). Any views expressed are those of the research team, and not necessarily those of the NIHR, NHS or Department of Health and Social Care.

Do you have any questions?

If you would like further information, to discuss taking part, or at any point you wish to withdraw from this study, please email the research team below or telephone 01707 285389:

Laura Hamilton l.hamilton7@herts.ac.uk

Angela Dickinson a.m.dickinson@herts.ac.uk

Do you require support or independent advice?

If you need support or advice, you can contact **Herts Help** for independent support, guidance and information, including advice on budgeting, debt, housing and accessing benefits support:

Website: www.hertshelp.net

Phone: 0300 123 4044

Email: info@hertshelp.net

Thank you very much for reading this information leaflet and giving consideration to taking part in this study.

If you have any complaints or concerns about any aspect of this study or how you have been approached, please contact the University's Secretary and Registrar at the following address:

Secretary and Registrar
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College Lane, Hatfield
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AL10 9AB