

Privacy Notice for the Evaluation of the Mockingbird Family Model

1. Introduction

The Rees Centre, University of Oxford¹ (“TRC”) and its affiliates, and subsidiaries are committed to protecting the privacy and security of the personal data we collect about data subjects (“you/your”). The Rees Centre has been commissioned by What Works in Children’s Social Care (“WWCSC”) to carry out the Evaluation of the Mockingbird Family Model (“Project”). This privacy policy outlines the purpose of the research and explains how we will collect and use the data for this study. It also describes how to get further information and what to do if you do not want to be part of the study.

Please read this privacy notice carefully as it provides important information about how we handle your personal information and your rights. If you have any questions about any aspect of this privacy notice you can contact us using the information provided below or by emailing us at data.protection@admin.ox.ac.uk quoting “Evaluation of the Mockingbird Family Model” in the subject or body of the email.

2. What is this study about?

The evaluation aims to explore the impact of the Mockingbird Family Model on foster carers and the children and young people that they support. It will also examine the practical issues associated with implementing the model in England. It is important to understand what makes a difference to foster carers and the young people they support.

The study is using de-identified (anonymous), administrative data (SSDA903 and Ofsted foster carer returns) and participation data (The Fostering Network monitoring data). The data are collected annually by the Department for Education and Ofsted. Participation data are provided by Local authorities to The Fostering Network on a monthly basis.

The researchers are also asking foster carers and children and young people participating in Mockingbird to participate in an online survey and interviews to further explore the impact of the model.

¹ The University’s legal title is the Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford

3. What is the lawful basis for using this information?

The lawful basis is the ‘public task’ that can be found in Article 6(1)(e) of the General Data Protection Regulation, which states:

‘Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.’

There are major gaps in the research evidence that the Department for Education wish to address in this study to ensure that they can meet their public task of providing services to children and families. The Department for Education have commissioned this research.

The University relies on Article 6(1)(e) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to process personal data where processing is necessary for a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the University. In this instance the public interest task is research. The principal objects of the University are the advancement of learning by teaching and research and its dissemination by every means. The University has the power to do all things permitted by law which are *necessary or desirable to promote its objects*. *More information about the University’s legal status can be found here:*

<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/statute-i-preliminary>

4. What information will we collect about you (or your child) for the study?

Using the SSDA903 administrative data we will collect information on children’s progress through the care. Information from the datasets includes the reason why the children entered care, the number of placements, the reason for placement change, missing from placement and well-being scores. The Ofsted data will provide information on the deregistration of foster carers. The survey information completed by foster carers and children/young people includes information on their experience of Mockingbird and questions related to well-being.

The interviews will help to capture more details about the impact of the Mockingbird model on participating foster carers and children and young people.

The information is needed to inform the development of policy and practice in particular when looking at the impact of Mockingbird on placement stability and foster carer retention.

The research team in the Rees Centre cannot identify any individuals. Any personal identifiers such as names are removed before the data are transferred to the University.

5. What will happen to the information I give you?

Administrative data is already anonymised and researchers at the Rees centre will not be able to identify individuals from the data shared by local authorities and The Fostering Network. Data collected through the online surveys are not identifiable and information gathered through the interviews will be kept private and confidential unless the researchers are concerned that you or someone else is at risk of harm. This means the information you share will not be linked to you in any way. The final reports will outline our findings without using any real names. Quotes from the conversation may be put into reports, but it will not be possible to identify anybody who has spoken to the researchers. Data collected will be retained for three years after the end of the project (May 2023) and then destroyed.

6. What if I'm not happy?

If you are not happy with how the research was conducted, please contact please contact the chair of the Department of Education Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter:
Email: research.office@education.ox.ac.uk; Address: 15 Norham Gardens, Oxford OX2 6PY

7. Contact details for any questions or withdrawal:

Dr Priya Tah, Rees Centre, University of Oxford, 15 Norham Gardens, Oxford OX2 6PY
e-mail: priya.tah@education.ox.ac.uk