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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET FOR INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW

Title of Study: Therapist's experiences of working with young adults and social media.

Researcher:

Please call on 087 9730510 or email me dianeobrien100@gmail.com if you require clarification or have any questions or concerns.

Academic Supervisor:

My academic supervisor for this study is Neasa Boyle.

You are invited to participate in a research study that will hear the experiences of therapists in working with young adults and social media. Before you decide to participate it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Feel free to ask about anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

1. Purpose of the Study

I am a student on the Masters in Pluralistic Counselling & Psychotherapy at IICP Education and Training Ltd.

The purpose of this study is to address an identified research gap by adopting a qualitative methodology to hear the experiences of qualified counsellors and psychotherapists who work with young adults and social media.

2. Why you have been asked to participate

You have been invited to participate because you are a qualified therapist with a minimum of one year's experience of working with young adults aged 18-25 years.

3. What will happen if I decide to participate

If you decide to participate in this study, I will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet for an interview. During this interview via Zoom, I will invite you to share your experience of working with young adults and social media. This session will last approximately forty five minutes. This interview session will be audio recorded so that I can be fully present to explore your experience of working with adults and social media.

4. Potential benefits, risks, and discomforts

There are no anticipated direct benefits to you in taking part in this study. However, possible benefits may be the personal satisfaction in contributing to the research project and in the process of reflecting on your experience of working with young adults and social media. Furthermore, the study may provide insight into the experience of therapists who encounter young adults on a regular basis to better understand social media's role with their lives and which can be used to improve practice and increase knowledge in the field.

While this study does not involve any significant risks, although rare, there may be minimal discomfort in voicing personal or negative opinions. You will have the opportunity to debrief with myself if you wish to do so and support services information will be provided to you.

5. Data Collection and Storage

Following completion of the interview, the recording will be transferred to a secure PC and password protected. The written documentation will be stored in a secure locked cabinet. Research information will be kept in a secure location at my home in Terenure, Dublin. The data will be destroyed 18 months after completion of the research project.

6. Confidentiality, Anonymity and Results of Study

Your identity will not be revealed in the research results. Your name, residence, place of employment, or other files/details will not be used in this study. Your involvement in this research and all information that you give will be kept strictly confidential. While excerpts from your interview may be used in subsequent reports, your name and any identifying information will be removed from all documentation, all efforts being made to ensure that you cannot be identified. All data will be stored, analysed, and reported in accordance with the Irish Data Protection Act, 1988 and will be destroyed within 18 months after the submission of this study.

Taking part in this study is entirely voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you will be given a copy of this consent form for your records. If you decide at this point to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. You are also free to decide not to answer any question asked or to request that certain answers are deleted. You will be given a copy of this information sheet, the debriefing sheet, and the signed consent form for your own records.

7. What happens after the study?

These results of this study will be used in an assignment for my Masters in Pluralistic Counselling & Psychotherapy. Additionally, anonymous data that is generated may be used in future research papers or presentations. No identifiable data will be present in such papers or presentations. If you would like a copy of the final research paper, you can contact me at the details provided on this form.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the IICP Research Ethics Committee.