

Study Advert

Parental and Practitioner Experiences of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Deafness

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Education

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For a research study to investigate parental and practitioner experiences of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Deafness (D/HH)

- Are you a parent of a child or adult who has autism and is also deaf/hard of hearing, or a practitioner supporting people who have autism and are deaf/hard of hearing?
- Are you a practitioner supporting an individual or individuals who are deaf/hard of hearing whom you suspect may also have autism?
- Do you use specific communication and interactive methods?

If you have answered yes to any of the above questions – you may be interested in participating in a study regarding your experiences of supporting people with autism who are deaf/hard of hearing.

My name is Lee Balfour and I have supported multiply-challenged adults who are deaf for over 20 years. I am currently studying for a Master's Degree in Autism at the University of Strathclyde (Glasgow, Scotland), and in the context of my studies I am conducting a research project into parental and practitioner experiences of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Deafness.

Participants will complete a 30 minute online questionnaire.

If you wish to know more about the study, please read the [Participant Information Sheet](#) appended at the end of this document.

If you are interested or require further information, you can contact me on:

Contact Information

Name: Lee Balfour

lee.balfour.2013@uni.strath.ac.uk

Supervisor's Name: Dr. Anna Robinson

Telephone: +44 (0) 141 444 8142

E-mail: anna.robinson@strath.ac.uk

Many thanks.

Lee

Participant Information Sheet

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Education

Title of the study: Parental and Practitioner Experiences of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Deafness

Introduction: My name is Lee Balfour and I am currently undertaking a post-graduate MSc in Autism Studies at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. I have worked with language and learning challenged Deaf adults for 28 years, and my Masters topic seeks to elicit parent and practitioner experiences of living with and supporting people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing with additional autism

What is the purpose of this investigation? This investigation aims to explore the experiences of parents and practitioners who support this particular population. The study seeks to explore what ASD may look like in this population, the overlapping features of deafness and ASD, the impact this has for the person and the necessary supports required.

Do you have to take part? Your participation is voluntary. You are able to withdraw from the study at any point, up until you choose to submit the questionnaire. If you decide to withdraw from the study after you begin to fill out the questionnaire, data which has already been entered will be kept; however, it will not be used in the study. Withdrawal from the study after submission of the questionnaire is not possible since questionnaire responses are anonymous.

What will you do in the project? You will read this Participant Information Sheet and then decide whether you would like to complete our questionnaire by clicking on the enclosed link ([click here](#)). The link will take you to the on-line questionnaire developed on Qualtrics. The questions should take around 30 minutes to complete, although exact timings will depend on how much detail you choose to provide. If you elect to participate, you would answer questions which are related to your experience of living with and/or supporting people who are deaf/hard of hearing, who have diagnosed or practitioner-suspected autism.

Why have you been invited to take part? We are interested in seeking the experiences of parents and practitioners who live with or support people who are deaf/hard of hearing and have additional diagnosed or practitioner-suspected autism. How you support communication and interaction and identify stress for the individual is of particular interest. There is limited research within this area and the researchers are interested in how to develop best strategies of support for this population.

What are the potential risks to you in taking part? No harm or risk is foreseen through participating in this study.

What happens to the information in the project? This study will **not** use information which can reveal your identity. The questionnaires will be stored privately on the University's servers by the investigators. Data will be destroyed 5 years after the completion of the study.

The place of useful learning

The University of Strathclyde is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, number SC015263

The University of Strathclyde is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office who implements the Data Protection Act 1998. All personal data on participants will be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Thank you for reading this information. Please feel free to ask any questions if you are unsure about any aspect of the process. I can be contacted directly using the email given below.

What happens next? If you are willing to be part of this study please fill out the associated [questionnaire](#). Upon submitting the [questionnaire](#) you would be giving your informed consent for your responses to be used in this study. It is not intended that there will be any direct follow-up in response to any submitted information.

The [questionnaire](#) will remain open until mid-March 2016.

If you would prefer not to participate, please contact me directly at the email address listed below and your contact details will be removed from the questionnaire mailing list.

The investigators would like to thank you for taking the time to consider this request to participate.

The investigators would be delighted to provide a summary of research findings at the conclusion of the study to any interested participant; simply contact the investigators by email from June 2016 onwards.

Researcher contact details:

Name: Lee Balfour

lee.balfour.2013@uni.strath.ac.uk

Chief Investigator details:

Name: Dr. Anna Robinson Telephone: +44 (0) 141 444 8142

E-mail: anna.robinson@strath.ac.uk

This investigation was granted ethical approval by the University of Strathclyde Ethics Committee.

If you have any questions/concerns, during or after the investigation, or wish to contact an independent person to whom any questions may be directed or further information may be sought from, please contact:

Dr Eleni Karagiannidou, Ethics Convener, University of Strathclyde, School of Education, Lord Hope
Glasgow, G1 1QE

Telephone: 141 444 8107

Email eleni.karagiannidou@strath.ac.uk:

The place of useful learning

The University of Strathclyde is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, number SC015263