

WATCH Project: Wheelchair outcomes Assessment Tool for Children

Improving Wheelchair Services for Children and Young People through
Patient Centred Outcomes Measures.

Information sheet for parents and carers

Your views and experiences are important to us!

We are contacting you to ask if you would like to be involved in a research project focussing on outcomes for users of wheelchairs – we want to understand what young wheelchair users want to achieve when they receive a wheelchair from the NHS. Before you decide, 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 friends and relatives. If there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information please contact us using the information provided on the next page.

What is the purpose of the study?

In this project we will look at how we can help to develop wheelchair services to meet the needs of children and young people who use wheelchairs. In order to do this we want to speak to young wheelchair users and their parents so that we can better understand what is important to them when they access wheelchair services.

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group are responsible for ensuring local wheelchair services meet the needs of children and young people with mobility impairments. With your input, we aim to develop patient centred outcomes measure in relation to wheelchair services. Patient centred outcomes measures are about putting patients, their families and carers at the heart of deciding which goals are most valuable when supplying a wheelchair, in partnership with the health professionals to ensure shared decision making when deciding what is best. We want to ensure that wheelchair services are making the right impact on your child's life.

Why have I been chosen?

We have contacted you because your son or daughter has a mobility impairment and requires a wheelchair to help them get around. We aim to recruit 30 young people with mobility impairments and their parent(s) from across the Shropshire, Wrekin and Telford area. Even if you are waiting for your child's first wheelchair your views are still important to us.

Do I have to take part?

No, it's completely your choice and it's OK if you don't want to take part. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. This will not affect the standard of care you receive. If you don't think your child should take part but you would like to take part that is also fine.

What will I have to do?

We have sent a questionnaire with this leaflet. The questionnaire contains a range of questions about wheelchair services. If you and/or your child would like to take part please complete this questionnaire and send it back to us using the stamped addressed envelope provided. Once we receive your completed questionnaire a member of the research team would like to interview you and your child (if possible). We would like to hear about your child's experience of wheelchair services and what you would like your child to get out of their wheelchair service. You can either take part in a one-to-one interview or a focus group with other parents and children. These sessions will last about an hour, and with your permission we will record them. We would like to interview everyone involved in this project, but it is ok if you would just like to complete the questionnaire.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking part?

There will not be any immediate advantages if you take part in this study, but with your help we hope to improve NHS wheelchair services for children and young people. As a thank you for taking part you will be given a **£10 high-street voucher** upon completion of the interview. We don't imagine that there would be any disadvantages of taking part, other than giving up your time.

What will happen to the information I give?

Any information you provide will be kept private and confidential, and your name will not be used in any reports we write. We will not pass on any of your information to anyone else, unless you tell us something that makes us seriously concerned about the safety of a child or vulnerable adult.

I would like to take part! What's next?

Great! Please complete the questionnaire(s) and return using the stamped addressed envelope. We will then contact you to arrange a date for the interview or focus group.

Where can I get more information?

If you want to know more about the project you can phone us, write to us or e-mail us using the contact details below. We will be more than happy to answer any questions you have.

Address:

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If you have any concerns about this project and would like to speak to someone outside of the research team, please contact Dr Sion Williams **Address:** School of Healthcare Sciences, Bangor University, Bangor University, Gwynedd LL57 2EF **Email:** sion.williams@bangor.ac.uk **Phone:** 01248 388451

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