



## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

**Researcher:** Mrs. Catherine Sheehan (PhD Candidate)  
**Research Title:** *An investigation into the provision of trauma training in the Irish Early Childhood Education & Care profession*

Dear Participant,

As part of my Postgraduate Research in the Dept. of Sport, Leisure & Childhood Studies, at Munster Technological University (MTU) Cork Campus, I am conducting a study that serves to explore the current trauma awareness training trajectory within the Early Childhood Education & Care (ECEC) profession in Ireland. The information below will provide you with more detail regarding this research.

### **What is the study about and why is it being carried out?**

The study aims to explore the current trauma awareness training offered to the ECEC workforce, with a view to designing and implementing a customised programme in trauma sensitive practice. At present, there is minimal evidence suggesting that informed, trauma-related education is currently offered to, and obtain by ECEC practitioners, which serves as a driving force of the current research.

### **What will I have to do if I decided to take part in the research?**

You are invited to take part in a focus group with three other managers regarding your experience and training in early childhood trauma and trauma sensitive practice. The focus group session will take approximately 35 minutes and will be conducted online in February 2023.

### **What are the benefits?**

Your contribution will provide for a greater understanding of the current trauma awareness training available in the ECEC sphere, regarding both your Initial Practitioner Education (IPE) and Continuous Professional Development (CPD). This will enable the research team to design and implement a specific and adaptable training programme to facilitate trauma sensitive practice in the ECEC profession.

### **What are the risks?**

There are no foreseeable risks involved in your participation. However, you might decide that you do not want to answer a specific question(s). If this happens, you do not have to answer this, or any, question(s).

### **What if I want to withdraw participation from the study?**

Participation in this focus group is voluntary, however, if you start the focus group, you can stop your involvement at any time throughout. There are no consequences for changing your mind about completing the focus group session. All related audio input will be immediately removed and deleted.

**How will data be gathered?**

The focus group session will be audio recorded for the researcher to analyse and later present the data. The information that is collected will ensure participant privacy as data will (i) not be of a personal nature, and (ii) be stored securely and safely on a password-protected laptop. All data will be confidential meaning your name and/or any identifiable details will not be disclosed, and all analysed data will be pseudonymised. The information that is gathered will be archived on the database for three years and will then be destroyed.

**Who else is taking part?**

This study seeks to include Service Managers, Room Leaders, as well as ECEC Practitioners from a selection of both Private and Community-based settings. As participation in this focus group is voluntary, there is no obligation for the aforementioned professionals to take part.

**What happens at the end of the study, how will the data be used?**

At the end of the study, the information will be used to present results that will inform the design of a new, bespoke trauma awareness training programme for the ECEC profession. Findings may possibly be used in related publications and/or academic conferences associated with this research. All data gathered from the focus group will be stored on a GDPR-compliant, cloud database that is password protected.

**What if I have more questions or do not understand something?**

If you have any questions about the study, you may contact any member of the research team (see below). It is important that you feel that all your questions have been answered.

**Contact name and number of Project Investigators****Principal Investigator**

Dr Judith Butler, Dept. of Sport, Leisure & Childhood Studies, Email: [judith.butler@mtu.ie](mailto:judith.butler@mtu.ie)

**Co-Investigator**

Dr Cian O' Neill, Head of Dept. of Sport, Leisure & Childhood Studies Phone: 021-4335823, Email: [cian.oneill@mtu.ie](mailto:cian.oneill@mtu.ie)

***Post-graduate Researcher***

Catherine Sheehan, Dept. of Sport, Leisure & Childhood Studies,

Email: [catherine.m.sheehan@mycit.ie](mailto:catherine.m.sheehan@mycit.ie)

We would be grateful if you would consider participating in this study. Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

Yours faithfully,

The Research Team

***This research study has received Ethics approval from the MTU Cork Research Ethics Committee.***



## PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

**Should you agree to participate in this study, please read the statements below and if you agree with them, please select 'I agree' to continue the questionnaire.**

- I am 18 years of age or over.
- I am currently working in the ECEC profession and work with and/or on behalf of children from birth to six years.
- I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet.
- I understand that the research team have acknowledged and accommodated for the sensitive nature of the topic, whereby support measures detailing both local MTU and external support services (e.g. the Samaritans, Pieta House, and the Health Service Executive supports) will be presented to me.
- I understand what the project is about, and what the results will be used for.
- I understand that what the researchers find out in this study may be shared with others but that my name will not be given to anyone in any written material developed.
- I am aware that the final thesis will be shared on the university's open repository SWORD.
- I am fully aware of what I will have to do, and of any risks and benefits of the study.
- I know that I am choosing to take part in the study and that I can stop taking part in the study at any stage without giving any reason to the researchers.
- I understand that the focus group session will be audio recorded for the researcher to analyse but that data will be pseudonymised.
- I am aware that this data will be archived for a period of three years.
- I am aware that if future postgraduate students are investigating a similar line of research, data archived for this study may potentially be revisited at the discretion of the Head of Department, but will only be used to compliment original findings and my name will not appear on any thesis-related documents or publications.

I Agree

I Disagree