

Perspectives on Wellbeing Investments in Schools and Employers Study Interview Information Sheet

What is this research about?

This research seeks to understand people's perspectives on allocating resources to mental health and well-being promotion within schools and workplaces. It is part of a wider research project (Wellbeing Investments in Schools and Employers) along with other studies which respectively focus on the ways in which decisions are made and the utilisation of research evidence and data to inform decision-making related to mental health and well-being investments in schools and workplaces.

Why is this research important?

This is important because people's perspectives can play a role as both barriers and facilitators of decisions within the organisations. Through this research, we aim to gain insight on people's perspectives on investing in mental health and wellbeing promotion in schools and workplaces. By better understanding, in detail, how and why schools and workplaces invest in mental health and the attitudes people hold about these decisions, we will build a picture of how they can be best supported to invest in mental health promotion effectively and equitably.

Who is carrying out the research?

This specific study is being carried out by Yusuf Ozdemir (a PhD researcher at the University of Birmingham). He is part of a wider team of researchers at the University of Birmingham funded by a research grant from Wellcome Trust (a charitable foundation focused on health research based in London).

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has received ethical consideration by the University of Birmingham. You can check the application with the code: **ERN_0817-Jul2023**

Why have I been invited to participate?

Either (1) your organisation has agreed to participate in this study and has suggested you would be a good person to speak with regarding your experience and knowledge of mental health and wellbeing investment at your organisation; or (2) You have been identified as someone whose views on mental health and wellbeing investment we are interested in. **You do not need to have any special knowledge to take part.**

What would taking part involve?

If you agree to participate in this study, Yusuf will conduct an approximately 45–60 minute interview with you. The interview itself will involve three stages:

1. Brief opening questions about your background (your professional role and experience in the field), to better position your interview results within the research.
2. Two consecutive card-sorting exercises with a set of statements related to topic, to understand your views and priorities on mental health investment in schools.
3. Several follow-up questions about the card-sorting exercise, to better understand your perspective.

Do I have to take part?

No, you do not have to take part in this study. It is a voluntary study which will contribute to a research degree and a larger project. Should you change your mind about your participation in the study, you can withdraw from the study at any time during the interview or up to one month after the interview.

If you decide to withdraw from the interview, please contact Yusuf whose details are provided at the end of the information sheet. You will be given up to one month after your participation to withdraw from the study (data analysis will commence after a month). There will be no consequences to withdrawing from the study, and you do not need to tell us why you no longer wish to take part in the study. In case of your withdrawal in time, your data will be deleted.

When and where will the interviews take place?

The interview will take place at the most convenient option for you (e.g. at your organisation, your home, at the university, or online). Face to face options are preferred.

Interviews will be audio-recorded. The audio-recording of the interview will be used to produce a typed record of the discussion, known as a transcript. Also, the photos of card sorts will be taken during the interviews (without including any personal information).

What will be done with the information I provide?

The information provided through the interview will help us explore the various perspectives that different groups of individuals hold (such as managers, workers, policymakers and citizens), and underlying values. The results of the study as a whole will help to guide policymakers and researchers on how to inform, support, and resource mental health and wellbeing promotion in schools and workplaces. We will also publish the findings in peer-reviewed journals for other researchers to use.

How will my information be kept confidential?

After the interviews, your personal identifiers will be replaced with unique school, workplace, and individual-level IDs to maintain your confidentiality while allowing researchers to organise the data. Your data will only be identifiable by the researchers under a password protected file. Information that you share about the staff in your workplace/school will not be shared with



those staff. Audio-recordings of the interviews, and the photos of the card-sorts will be kept in a secure folder on the University of Birmingham server for the duration of the project. The recordings will be transcribed by the researcher or an external agency who has signed a confidentiality agreement with University of Birmingham. In addition to the standard password access and two-factor authentication in the University system, document level password protection will also be applied for the recordings and transcripts. At the end of the project, your data will be completely anonymised. Any publications and reports will be completely anonymised as well.

In line with University of Birmingham’s General Data Protection Law (GDPR) policies we will process your information in a lawfully, fairly, and transparent manner. We will only collect information we need for the legitimate purposes of our research. You can learn more about your rights under the General Data Protection Law (GDPR) here; <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/privacy/index.aspx>.

What are the possible benefits of participating?

At the end of the project, we will invite you to a workshop about the study findings and how these could be used. This could aid future wellbeing investment decisions in organisations. If you are participating as an individual outside of an organisation, we will provide a voucher as a thank you for your time.

More importantly, there is a wider benefit to society, in helping further our understanding of how schools and workplaces invest in mental health and wellbeing promotion. By sharing your experiences, you will be addressing an important gap in knowledge and enable researchers to build a better picture of how schools and workplaces make decisions and thus how they can be best supported in investing in mental health and wellbeing promotion.

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

There are no health risks associated with your participation in this study. The study will focus on your and other participants’ perspectives on resource allocation practice. Your views will be anonymised. There will be no questions related to your own mental health. If you feel distressed during the interviews, we will ask you if you want to continue or not and you have the right to withdraw as mentioned. We will also take all precautions for any known physical health risk based on government recommendations.

We are very grateful to you for considering participation in this study. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Yusuf Ozdemir. For further questions about the wider project, you also may contact Professor Hareth Al-Janabi.

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Thank you for reading this information sheet.