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**Setting the Bar follow on project = Information and consent sheet**

Background and information for participants

The **Setting the Bar** project aimed to establish an evidence-based indicative caseload limit for social work staff in Scotland and consider how this might be used. Following publication of the [**Setting the Bar**](https://socialworkscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Setting-the-Bar-Full-Report.pdf) report, conversations have continued with a wide variety of stakeholders. These conversations underscore the salience of the report’s conclusion that alongside more manageable workloads and caseloads, a stronger voice for social work is needed if staff are to feel valued and able to improve outcomes for people.

Social Work Scotland in partnership with the researchers behind the Setting the Bar report (Emma Miller and Karen Barrie) are now keen to facilitate focus groups with social work staff to explore the key questions that arose from the survey, particularly regarding workload manageability and quality and staff wellbeing. Consistent with calls for a stronger voice, the intention is to gain further insights from social work staff to inform the conclusion of a supplementary report.

**Research Information**

We will facilitate focus groups of up to ten social work staff each in early September 2022. The focus groups will be held online as we want to ensure a geographical spread. Each group will last 75 minutes and will include a brief introduction and reminder of key points from the research. Most of the time will be used to hear social work perspectives on the report findings, with emphasis on working out what is already in place to support workload manageability and staff wellbeing and identify what else needs to happen. While in no way intending to ignore the challenges, we want to add to what is already known by identifying solutions and build on the recommendations of the original report.

The focus groups will be audio recorded and the researchers will transcribe the audio and use the information to write a brief follow up report to the original Setting the Bar report. The audio recordings will be destroyed as soon as they have been transcribed. We will not store your personal information other than email addresses after the focus groups and will use pseudonyms in the transcripts. All names and identifying information will be withheld to protect the anonymity of participants. We will send the follow up report to all participants when completed.

If you have any questions or require further information please contact [admin@socialworkscotland.org](mailto:admin@socialworkscotland.org)

If you are happy to participate, please sign and return the consent sheet below to [admin@socialworkscotland.org](mailto:admin@socialworkscotland.org)

**Consent Form for Use of Information from Setting the Bar focus groups**

* I confirm that I have read and understood the Information Sheet for the above project and have had the opportunity to ask the researchers questions.
* I confirm that I understand how my personal information will be used and what will happen to it (i.e. how it will be stored and for how long).
* I understand that my participation is voluntary.
* I understand that I can request the withdrawal from the study of some personal information and that whenever possible researchers will comply with my request. This includes the following personal data:
  + my personal information from transcripts.
* I understand that anonymised data (i.e. data that do not identify me personally) cannot be withdrawn once they have been included in the study.
* I understand that any information recorded in the research will remain confidential and no information that identifies me will be made publicly available.
* I consent to being a participant in the project.
* I consent to being audio recorded as part of the project

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| (PRINT NAME) | DATE |