



Supporting multiple birth families¹; establishing an evidence base to inform health visitor practice

Research team:

Merryl Harvey, Professor of Nursing and Family Health, Birmingham City University / co-lead Elizabeth Bryan Multiple Births Centre

Jane Denton, Director of Multiple Births Foundation / co-lead Elizabeth Bryan Multiple Births Centre

Cheryll Adams, Executive Director of Institute of Health Visiting

Robert Cook, Research Fellow Medical Statistics, Birmingham City University

Lara Alamad, Research Assistant, Birmingham City University

Introduction

The Elizabeth Bryan Multiple Births Centre (EBMBC) is a collaboration between Birmingham City University (BCU) and the Multiple Births Foundation. One of the aims of the EBMBC is to establish an evidence base on supporting multiple birth families. As part of this work, we are inviting you to participate in a survey of health visitors working in the United Kingdom. This study is a collaboration between the EBMBC and the Institute of Health Visiting (iHV). Before you decide about taking part, it is important that you understand why the study is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read this information sheet and to decide if you would like to participate. Please let us know if you would like more information about the study (see email address at the end of this document). Thank you for reading this.

What is the study about?

The survey will investigate health visitor experiences supporting multiple birth families. We would like find out about any education and professional development that health visitors have received and their

¹Throughout this document the term 'multiple birth families' is used to refer to families with twins, triplets and higher order multiples

experiences supporting multiple birth families. This will provide evidence of health visitor experiences, perceptions and education and professional development needs regarding multiple birth families.

Who has funded the study?

The Burdett Trust for Nursing has provided funding for the study.

Why am I being invited to take part?

We wish to recruit health visitors (including practice teachers) who are currently practising in the United Kingdom. You have been given access to this leaflet so that you can think about taking part in the study.

Do I have to take part?

Involvement in this study is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide if you want to take part. If you decide not to take part or withdraw from the study, your relationship with the EBMBC, the iHV or BCU will be unaffected.

What will happen if I agree to take part?

We would like you to participate in an online survey. If you would like to participate, you will need to access the link to the survey which is located on the EBMBC website (<http://www.bcu.ac.uk/ebmbc>). The opening questions will ask you to confirm that you have a health visiting qualification and that you are currently practising as a health visitor in the United Kingdom. If you answer 'no' to either of these questions, you will be unable to proceed with the questionnaire. You will then be asked to confirm that you consent to participate in the survey. You will be unable to proceed with the questionnaire until consent has been confirmed. If you decide to take part, you can still withdraw from the study at any time without having to give a reason. Please note however, that it will not be possible to withdraw your data once data analysis has commenced.

The questions are based on the findings of focus groups previously held with health visitors. Questions will ask about your professional qualifications, current role, length of time working as a health visitor, the geographical area in which you work and your experiences working with multiple birth families. Your name, exact place of work and age will not be required. We anticipate that it will take about 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire. You will not incur any costs or be paid any money to take part in the study. However, you can if you wish participate in a prize draw for a £30.00 shopping voucher (see below).

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What are the possible risks of taking part?

We do not anticipate that the survey questions will cause you to feel distressed. However, if you find answering some of the questions upsetting you may wish to discuss this with your team leader / manager.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Whilst there will be no direct benefit to you in taking part, we hope that you will enjoy sharing your experiences. Your participation will also provide evidence to support the future education and professional development of health visitors about multiple births.

What if something goes wrong?

If you feel at any time that you have cause for complaint arising from this study, please let us know. If you wish to make a complaint please contact Julie Quick, Insurance lead, Faculty of Health Education and Life Sciences via: hels_ethics@bcu.ac.uk

Will my involvement in this study be kept confidential?

In accordance with data protection requirements, all study data (pre and post analysis) will be stored on a BCU password protected device. Only the research team will have access to the study data. In accordance with current BCU guidelines, study data will be securely destroyed after five years. No identifiable information (for example names or exact places of work) will be included in any papers or conference presentations. Where appropriate, codes will be used to protect the identity of individuals or places. In order to take part in the prize draw, participants will need to enter their work email address at the end of the questionnaire. These email addresses will be securely stored on a BCU password protected device and will be securely destroyed when the draw has been completed. The email addresses will only be accessible to the research team and will not be used for any other purpose.

What will happen at the end of the study?

A report will be written for the Burdett Trust for Nursing. The findings will also be available on the EBMBC and iHV websites, published in health care journals and presented at conferences. Your personal details and your exact place of work will not be included in any of these.

Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty Academic Ethics Committee, Faculty of Health, Education and Life sciences, Birmingham City University.

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Contact for further information

If after reading this you have any questions or need some further information, please contact:

For further information about the survey:

multiple.births@bcu.ac.uk

Tel: 0121 331 5185

Link to survey:

<https://bcu.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/supporting-multiple-birth-families-establishing-an-eviden-2>

Thank you for taking time to read this leaflet.

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