**The Rain within the Rainbow**

**Participant Information Sheet**

You are being invited to take part in research exploring practitioner and professional experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ+) suicide prevention.

Dr Hazel Marzetti (she/her) at the University of Edinburgh is leading this research. Before you decide whether to take part it is important you understand whythe research is being conducted and whatit will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

**What is the purpose of this research?**

This research aims to better understand practitioner and professional perspectives on the provision of suicide prevention for LGBTQ+ people experiencing suicidal thoughts, feelings, attempts and crises. Through this research we hope to gain insights into what suicide prevention practices are working well for LGBTQ+ communities, as well as understanding what the current challenges are and practitioner and professionals’ ideas about how these might be overcome.

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited to take part in this study as you have previously or currently had a UK-based role in suicide prevention – either in a paid or voluntary capacity.

You do not need to work or volunteer in a specialist crisis or suicide prevention service to take part in this research, as we are interested in the perspectives of practitioners across the many varied types of suicide prevention that are available. Similarly, we encourage people who are involved in both a clinical and non-clinical capacity, this includes but is not limited to: youth workers, social workers, social care workers (including PAs), teachers and other practitioners working in educational settings, counsellors and psychotherapists, doctors, nurses, psychologists, peer support workers and those involved in facilitating peer support groups, Third Sector practitioners, commissioners and policy makers.

You must be aged over 16 to take part in this research.

**Do I have to take part?**

No – it is entirely up to you. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Deciding not to take part or withdrawing from the study will not affect your medical care or legal rights.

You will have a month following your interview to withdraw your data in its entirety. After this time, your data may be used in articles, presentations, reports, and other types of research outputs – but every effort will be made to ensure that any information that could identify you is anonymised to protect your identity.

**What will happen if I decide to take part?**

If you decide to take part, please keep this Information Sheet for your future reference. You will be asked to complete an Informed Consent Form either in person or online, to show you understand your rights in relation to the research, and that you are willing to take part.

You will be asked a number of questions regarding your experiences of working or volunteering in suicide prevention, particularly with LGBTQ+ people. The interview (which will be a fairly informal conversation) can take place either online via a video call, or in person in a location and at a time that is convenient to you. Ideally, we would like to audio record your responses (and will require your consent for this), so if you decide to participate in a video call, it would be best if you do so in a fairly quiet area to enable us to accurately record what you say.

The interview should take around an hour to complete, but may take longer or shorter depending on how much you would like to share.

As a token of our appreciation for taking part, participants will receive a £20 voucher.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

There are no direct benefits, but by sharing your experiences with us, you will be adding to our understandings of LGBTQ+ suicide prevention, which we hope will be able to be used to share good practice and progress work to overcome common challenges.

**Are there any risks or disadvantages associated with taking part?**

Talking about suicide and suicide prevention can be emotionally challenging. If at any time you feel upset or uncertain about whether you still want to take part, please let the researcher know. At any time, for any reason, during the interview, you can pause, take a break or end the interview. At the end of the interview, all participants will be provided with a sheet signposting to services that can be contacted for support.

**Will my taking part be confidential?**

We will make every effort to maintain confidentiality, for example changing people’s names, and the names of any organisations, services or groups mentioned. There are strict laws which safeguard your privacy at every stage in the research process.

There may be times that we have to tell someone else about something you have said to us, for example if:

* you tell us that you feel your life or someone else’s life is in immediate danger
* you tell us about someone who is hurting a child or a vulnerable adult
* you ask us to contact a third party on your behalf

If we believe that we need to share information about you then we will try where possible to talk to you in advance, so that together we can work out who to tell and how to tell them.

**How will we use information about you?**

We will need to use information from you for this research project.

This information will include your name and email address.

People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will be assigned to a different name (pseudonym) which either you or the researcher will select, depending on your preference. We will keep all information about you safe and secure.

All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected computer and any identifiable data (e.g. consent forms with your name on them or recordings of the interview) will be stored in an encrypted folder to give additional protections to your identity. Recordings will be securely transferred to a professional 1st Class Secretarial who will maintain confidentiality at all times. Any paper records (your completed consent form and demographic monitoring form if taking part in an in-person interview) will be scanned and uploaded to a secure folder at the researcher’s earliest opportunity and the paper copies then shredded. Your anonymised demographic questionnaire, and anonymised transcripts will be retained for a minimum of ten years for use by the research team.

We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study and will anonymise transcripts. Your anonymised demographic questionnaire and anonymised transcript will be archived in a secure data repository to enable other researchers to apply to the lead researcher (Hazel Marzetti) for data access so they can check the research findings and use for future legitimate research. Extensive attention will be paid to your confidentiality and information that could identify you will be anonymised or redacted.

### What are your choices about how your information is used?

* You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason. It will be possible to request your data to be deleted for up to a month after you have completed the interview. After this time, we will keep information about you that we already have.
* We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won’t be able to let you change the data we hold about you.

### Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

For further information about data privacy for research participants please refer to: <https://data-protection.ed.ac.uk/privacy-notice-research>

* by asking one of the research team
* by sending an email to [hazel.marzetti@ed.ac.uk](mailto:hazel.marzetti@ed.ac.uk)

The University of Edinburgh is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Edinburgh will keep your anonymised data for a minimum of ten years. Identifiable information about you will be destroyed at the earliest opportunity following anonymisation, with the exception of the audio recording which will be used in the initial stage of analysis and then destroyed.

**What will happen with the results of this study?**

The results of this study may be summarised in published articles, reports and presentations. You will not be identifiable from any published results. Quotes or key findings will always be made anonymous in any formal outputs unless we have your prior and explicit written permission to attribute them to you by name. Your anonymised information will be kept for future research. A summary of the findings from the study will be made available to participants who indicate they would like to receive this. This summary will be sent to participants by email.

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

This study has been organised by Dr Hazel Marzetti and sponsored by the University of Edinburgh.

The study is being funded by the Wellcome Trust.

**Who has reviewed this study?**

The study proposal has been reviewed by the University of Edinburgh’s School of Health in Social Sciences’ Research Ethics Committee.

**Who can I contact?**

If you have any further questions about the study, please contact the lead researcher, Hazel Marzetti: hazel.marzetti@ed.ac.uk

If you would like to discuss this study with someone independent of the study, please contact Prof Amy Chandler: a.chandler@ed.ac.uk

If you wish to make a complaint about the study, please contact:

Professor Matthias Schwannauer, Head of the School of Health in Social Sciences, headofschool.health@ed.ac.uk  or Research Governance Team (cahss.res.ethics@ed.ac.uk).