****

**Information Sheet for Participants**

*‘Privileging foster care: An investigation of the context for this and the*

*implications for children requiring public care****’***

You are asked to participate in a research study conducted by Mark Cronin as part of his PhD studies at the UCL Institute of Education, University College London, it having been approved by the UCL Institute of Education Research Ethics Committee. Your participation in the study is entirely voluntary and you hold the right to withdraw from this study at any time. You have been asked to participate as your experience may provide some important insights in exploring the research focus, as indicated above. Please read the information below before deciding whether or not to participate.

**Purpose of the Study**: This research aims to explore the ways in which foster care and residential care placements are selected as places to support young people and their subsequent ability to meet the needs of children requiring out-of-home public care. It will seek to consider the experiences of care leavers in respect of their care placements as well as exploring the opinions of those involved in providing care and in the decisions regarding placement choices. It is hoped that this will illuminate the nature of the decision-making process and the implications for those children and young people whose needs it is meant to meet.

**Procedures:** If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to take part in an interview during which you will be asked questions about your experience of care. These interviews may be digitally recorded in order to document information gathered more accurately, in which case participants will be provided with a complete record of the interview. However, you hold the right to refuse to be recorded if you feel this is not appropriate. You will receive a de-brief at the end of the interview to ensure that your views have been captured as a true reflection of their meaning and intention.

**Potential benefits to subjects and/or to society:** The research is designed to enable an exploration of, the factors which impact on, placement options for those children and young people requiring public care, the experiences of being in public care and the need for alternatives to meet the range of needs. The intentions of this research are to identify how privileging foster care operates in practice, the implications for children and young people requiring public care and to stimulate the debate around the need to provide a range of placement options.

**Confidentiality:** Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. Confidentiality will be maintained by anonymising any identifying personal details. Any data generated will be stored securely and anonymously in line with GDPR requirements. Once the research is completed all participants will be sent a summary of the outcomes of the research.

**Participation and withdrawal:** Your participation in this study is entirely on a voluntary basis and you may withdraw at any time. You may also refuse to answer any questions you do not want to answer.

**Identification of Researcher**

If you have any questions or concerns about this research please contact:

**Mark Cronin**

**Tel No: 0121 476 1181 x2439**

**Email: terence.cronin.15@ucl.ac.uk**