# Permanently Progressing?

## Building secure futures for children: Phase 2 Middle childhood

### Project Outline

*Permanently Progressing?* is examining the experiences and pathways to different forms of permanence (with parents, kinship carers, foster carers, or adoptive parents) for 1,836 children who became looked after in
2012-13 when they were aged five or under. There are three phases to this study, tracking children’s progress at key life stages (early childhood, middle childhood and adolescence/early adulthood).

Phase 1 (2014-18) analysed children’s pre-care experiences, pathways and early outcomes, and you may have taken part in this phase or attended one of the dissemination events. Reports and summaries for Phase 1 of *Permanently Progressing?* are available at: [Permanently Progressing? reports and summaries.](https://www.stir.ac.uk/about/faculties/social-sciences/our-research/research-groups/centre-for-child-wellbeing-and-protection/research/permanently-progressing/)

Phase 2 (December 2020 – September 2024) builds on the findings of Phase 1 and is revisiting the children to find out where they are living, their legal status, their experiences in education, what enhances their wellbeing and bolsters resilience, and what sources of support are available to them and their families. Phase 2 is funded by a philanthropic donor and the Nuffield Foundation. It is a collaboration between the University of Stirling, Lancaster University, and Adoption and Fostering Alliance (AFA) Scotland.

#### Project Team

Principal Investigator: Helen Whincup

Co-investigators: Linda Cusworth and Maggie Grant

Researchers: Jade Hooper and Alison Hennessy

#### Ethical Review

This study has been approved by the General University Ethics Panel at the University of Stirling and the Faculty of Social Sciences (FASS) ethics committee at Lancaster University.

#### Your Invitation

Your local authority is participating in Phase 2, and you are being invited to complete an online questionnaire as part of our survey of caregivers and social workers. You have been identified as the current or most recent social worker of a child who forms part of our sample (children who became looked after away from home in 2012-13 and who were not living with parent(s) a year later). The questionnaire asks questions about the child’s experiences, any difficulties in achieving or sustaining permanence and future plans for the child. The questionnaire should take about 20 minutes to complete.

#### Do I have to take part?

No, you do not have to take part. We would really appreciate if you did, but it is completely voluntary. If you change your mind after completing the questionnaire you can contact Helen Whincup, Principal Investigator and ask for your data to be removed from the study (by 1st March 2022). We cannot guarantee that data will be removed after this date as the analysis may have been completed.

#### Are there any potential risks to taking part?

Completing a questionnaire about the child’s experiences and progress may elicit feelings of sadness, as well as joy. If you do find any aspects of the survey upsetting, please contact Helen Whincup and we can discuss how to help.

#### What happens to the data I provide?

The survey has been created using [Qualtrics](https://www.qualtrics.com) survey software. This is an online system used to design, send and analyse surveys. It is General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliant in handling and storing data. Once downloaded from Qualtrics, data will be stored in password-protected files on a secure server at the University of Stirling.

The information you provide will only be accessible to the research team and will be treated confidentially, subject to the usual limits of confidentiality should child protection concerns be identified. We may use anonymous quotes in reports, publications, conferences and for training purposes, but we will not include any identifying information; we will not include your name, the child’s name or the names of any family members.

#### Legal basis for processing personal data

As part of the project, we will be recording personal data relating to you for the purpose of the research; for example, your contact details to send you the questionnaire. This will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) under the legal basis of ‘performance of a task carried out in the public interest’ and of ‘public interest research’. We will hold your personal data and primary research data safely for up to 10 years after the study has ended.

You have the right to request to see a copy of the information we hold about you and to request corrections or deletions of information that is no longer required. You also have the right to object to us processing relevant personal data, however, please note that once the data are being analysed and/or results published it will not be possible to remove your data from the study.

#### Will the research be published?

We will produce publicly available reports and summaries, and academic peer-reviewed journals. If you would like a copy of the final report, please include your email address on the survey and the researchers will send it to you. Other articles based on the research can also be made available on request. Unless funder/publisher requirements prevent us, the research will be publicly disseminated through the University of Stirling’s open access repository (STORRE).

#### Any questions?

Please contact Linda Cusworth or Jade Hooper if you have any questions at any stage.

#### Who do I contact if I have concerns about this study or wish to complain?

If you have any concerns, please contact Helen Whincup, Principal Investigator. If at any point you are unhappy about the research process or have a complaint you can contact Derek McGhee, Dean of Faculty (derek.mcghee@stir.ac.uk).

You have the right to lodge a complaint against the University regarding data protection issues with the Information Commissioner’s Office. Any questions about data protection can be addressed to the University’s Data Protection Officer (Joanna Morrow, Deputy Secretary, data.protection@stir.ac.uk).

