



## Shortlisting Survey - Information Sheet

### What is the Research Priorities for Learning Difficulties Project?

The Salvesen Mindroom Centre and the University of Edinburgh are working together on research into learning difficulties. Through the Research Priorities for Learning Difficulties Project, they want to find out what research is important to people living with learning difficulties and to those working alongside them. The James Lind Alliance is partnering on the project as they are experts in this type of work.

This project is important as at least five children in every classroom have some kind of learning difficulty and there are many unanswered questions about the conditions and challenges they face.

Across Scotland we're asking people who have learning difficulties, their families and the professionals working alongside them, to tell us what they want researchers to find out about learning difficulties.

By bringing all the responses together, the project will identify the top 10 research priorities for learning difficulties amongst children and young people.

The top 10 research priorities will inform future research work into learning difficulties including the work of The Salvesen Mindroom Centre.

### Who can get involved?

You can get involved by completing our shortlisting survey if you are:

- a child or young person with learning difficulties
- an adult who experienced learning difficulties as a child
- a parent/carer of a child or young person with learning difficulties
- a professional working with children or young people with learning difficulties (e.g. in education, health or the third sector)



# Research priorities for learning difficulties

## What is this shortlisting survey about?

This survey is about you. It is about future research being focused on what matters to you.

Within the survey are 40 research questions about learning difficulties. We're asking you to tell us the 10 research questions, out of the 40, that are most important to you.

The questions have been gathered from a survey completed last summer by people who have learning difficulties, their families and the professionals working alongside them. 828 questions were submitted and, following analysis, have been summarised into the 40 research questions in the shortlisting survey.

We have checked to ensure that none of the 40 questions have already been answered by research.

## What do you mean by learning difficulty?

There are many definitions of learning difficulty, but for this project we have defined a learning difficulty as a problem of understanding or an emotional difficulty that affects a person's ability to learn, get along with others and follow convention.

On a day-to-day basis, that can be many things including:

- struggling with reading, writing or numeracy,
- not being able to concentrate for long periods,
- losing track of time,
- forgetting what has just been learnt
- acting impulsively

A learning difficulty may be associated with many conditions such as:

- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- developmental coordination disorder (DCD/dyspraxia)
- down's syndrome
- dyslexia
- dyscalculia
- dysgraphia
- epilepsy



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- foetal alcohol syndrome
- fragile-X syndrome
- speech and language impairments
- Tourette syndrome

The person affected might, or might not, have a diagnosis and the learning difficulty may also be a symptom of a more complex condition.

## How do I get involved?

If you want to take part, go online to fill in the survey at [www.SalvesenMindroom.org](http://www.SalvesenMindroom.org) or fill in a paper survey form. You can contact us to get a copy of the paper survey.

## Do I have to take part?

You can choose if you wish to take part. You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. If you complete the shortlisting survey, we will assume that you are consenting to participate in the study. We will also assume that you agree to allow your responses (but not your personal details) to be included in the results published on The Salvesen Mindroom Centre website, the JLA website and in related publications.

## Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Yes. All personal information will be kept strictly confidential in line with data protection laws. However you don't need to give us your name - you can choose to complete the survey anonymously. More information about how we will use your data can be found at the start of the online survey and at the end of the paper survey.

## What happens to the results of the survey?

When we receive the survey responses, we will produce a list of the 20 most popular questions out of the 40. These will be taken to a workshop involving people with learning difficulties, their families and health, education, social work and third sector professionals. In this workshop, the people involved will discuss the final 20 questions and narrow them down to the final top ten questions.



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We will publish the results on The Salvesen Mindroom Centre website, the James Lind Alliance website and in related publications.

## Can I take part in the workshop?

If you are one of the following people, and would like to take part in the workshop, then we'd like to hear from you.

- a child or young person with learning difficulties
- an adult who experienced learning difficulties as a child
- a parent/carer of a child or young person with learning difficulties
- a professional working with children or young people with learning difficulties (e.g. in education, health or the third sector)

Please answer 'Yes' to the question in section C in the shortlisting survey which asks if you would like to take part in the workshop and then give us your contact details. Unfortunately not everyone who would like to take part in the survey will be able to join us on the day as places are limited. We'll only be back in touch with you if we're able to offer you a workshop place.

The workshop will be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June between 10am and 4pm in central Edinburgh. We will pay travel expenses for people taking part. We will also pay agreed accommodation expenses for those who cannot travel on the morning of the workshop to arrive before 10am, and need to stay in Edinburgh the night before the workshop.

## Further information

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Ai Keow Lim

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## The Process

