



Independent review  
into gender identity  
services for children  
and young people

## **Independent review of gender identity services for children and young people Professional online panel information sheet**

### **About the Cass Review**

The Independent Review of Gender Identity Services for Children and Young People (The Cass Review) was commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement in Autumn 2020 to make recommendations about how to develop and improve the services provided by the NHS to children and young people who are questioning their gender identity or experiencing gender incongruence.

The scope of the review is broad and will look at different aspects of gender identity services from primary care through to specialist services with a focus on how care can be improved.

Further detail can be found on the [Cass Review website](#).

### **Taking part in the virtual professional panel**

[We are inviting you to participate in an online panel](#) to explore issues around gender identity services for children and young people. This time-limited research will provide a baseline of current competency, capacity and confidence among clinicians and other professionals (beyond the specialist GIDS service), as well as any broader concerns about the work, providing an evidence base, from which to develop recommendations for service development and improvement.

With a subject matter as charged and controversial as gender identity services for children and young people it is fundamental that participants are able to confidently share their views and feelings openly without fear of judgement. We will use an online research and engagement platform which provides a space in which different people can share their views, explore views that are different to their own, and seek to gain a deeper understanding of the overall situation in a safe and anonymised way.

Crucially, the exercise is not about seeking to resolve the tensions, change minds or force a conclusion, but rather explore where shared values may exist, where collaboration and cooperation might be possible and to build a picture of current competency, capacity and confidence, and any broader concerns among the wider workforce, creating a foundation of evidence upon which to develop solutions.

### **The time commitment**

Working with [Traverse](#), the Review team will conduct the research over six weeks through late September to early November to create sufficient space for participants to reflect on their position when it comes to gender identity services for children and young people.

You will be invited to anonymously respond to questions and activities. These online surveys and activities should not take more than 20 - 30 minutes in total each week.

A smaller number of panel participants will be invited to take part in one or two online discussion workshops during the 6 weeks. These will be optional and will require approximately 2 hours of your time working to the following timeline:

- w/c 20 September - Panel live (1) - survey and independent activity
- w/c 1 October - First online workshop with 30 people
- w/c 11 October - Panel live (2) - survey and independent activity
- w/c 25 October - Second online workshop with 30 people

## **Recruitment process**

The aim is to recruit a panel of between 100 and 120 professionals. If there is a higher level of interest, then the Review team and Traverse will review the expressions of interest to ensure the panel:

- represents a variety of experiences and stated levels of confidence, competence and capacity
- is demographically and geographically diverse
- is balanced in terms of the professional groups represented.

We will be in touch to confirm whether or not you have been selected for the panel. If you are selected, you will be sent a link to the collaboration platform through which the research will be conducted.

## **How will the information I provide be used?**

The information you provide on the expression of interest form will only be used in the recruitment of a balanced panel and will not be shared beyond the research team. Nothing that you tell us on this form will be attributed to you or shared more widely.

All data from the online activities is private so that you can feel confident to share your genuine opinions. In group discussions, facilitators will create the space at the beginning of the workshop to establish an atmosphere of openness and trust.

The information you give will help to provide a baseline position from which to develop:

- A framework for initial assessment of children and young people presenting with gender dysphoria.
- An approach to training for professionals at local and regional level.
- Some preliminary workforce recommendations, which will be particularly important in meeting the timelines of the three-year Comprehensive Spending Review.

The review team may also seek your permission to use any quotations in the main body of the report. These would not be attributed directly to you.