

READY: Recording Emerging Adulthood in Deaf Youth.

A prospective longitudinal study of deaf young people age 16-23 years.

Young, A., Rogers, K.D., Squires, G., O' Neill, R., Chilton, H., Dodds, C., Espinoza, F., Giacoppo, R.

READY@manchester.ac.uk

manchester.ac.uk/thereadystudy

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Introduction

- Only a small amount of research has focused attention on the years following compulsory education and the diverse pathways deaf children may take into young adulthood. Prospective longitudinal studies of deaf children are rare and few have ever focussed on deaf youth.

Research Questions

- What are the risk and protective factors relevant to deaf young people's achievement of autonomy, social development, personal wellbeing and educational and occupational attainment?
- How do these factors operate and interact, and what are their differential effects given the diversity of deaf young people's profiles and varying familial and contextual circumstances?
- Is it possible to predict the elements required to maximise the potential of deaf young people (in the domains of autonomy, social development, wellbeing, education and employment) between the ages of 16 and 23 years and how these might be enabled?

Methods

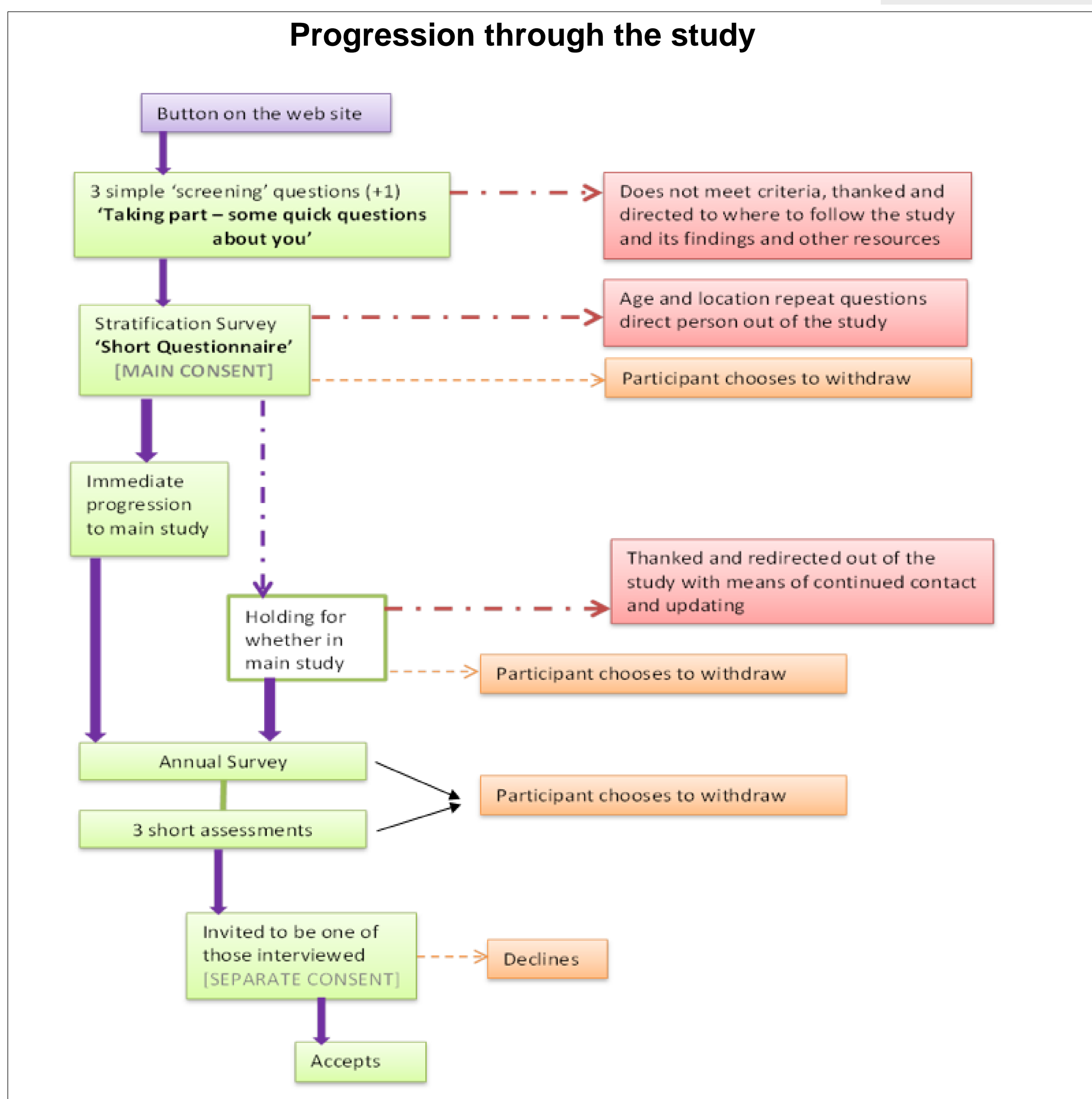
Design: Mixed methods prospective longitudinal study with five waves of annual data collection.

Sample: A representative sample of at least 500 deaf young people aged 16 to 23 years old resident in England, Scotland or Wales.

Instruments: Annual survey instrument allowing some comparative analysis LSYPE (Longitudinal Survey of Youth in England), EQ-5D-5L¹, SWEMWBS² (Short Warwick and Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale), SDI-SR (Self-Determination Inventory)³. All available in: English, Welsh, sign supported spoken English, sign supported spoken Welsh and BSL. Additionally, 50 deaf young people annually will be interviewed by research team members or deaf peer co-inquirers.

Data analysis: descriptive statistics, longitudinal multi-variate analysis, principal component and factor analysis (both quantitative and qualitative). Interview data will undergo hermeneutic phenomenological analysis by individual and group and be used to refine the regression model in subsequent waves of data collection.

Progression through the study



Recruitment

- Pathway one:** last year of formal education, targeted through schools and services.
- Pathway two:** FE colleges, Higher Education, employment services, apprenticeships.
- Pathway three:** individual self enrolment, leisure and informal groups/social activities, professionals and parents directing young people to the study.

Results

- Study opens in June 2019



Discussion

- The study focusses on contemporary deaf youth in all of its diversity in the 21st century.
- The results of this milestone project will be invaluable for parents, deaf young people, support providers and educators in understanding what can make a positive difference on the pathway from childhood to adulthood for deaf young people.
- Understanding more about deaf young people's experiences at this crucial point in life will help to improve opportunities for other deaf young people in the future through tailored personal support and evidence based structural change.

References

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