



Participant Information Sheet Thriving Relationships Survey

Thank you for choosing to participate in our Thriving Relationships survey.

Before you decide to take part in this research, please spend a few minutes reading through this information so that you understand what is being asked of you and what the research is for. Thank you.

Once you have read through this information, you will be asked to confirm that you have read and understand it.

What is the research about?

Previous studies have explored how different roles in the Fire and Rescue sector impact on families and partner relationships in both positive and negative ways.

This research will enable us to develop practical tools and resources for UK Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) personnel and partners of FRS personnel to support their partner relationships to thrive.

Who is conducting the study?

This research forms part of a programme with the Fire Fighters Charity, Relate, and Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service. The Fire Fighters Charity has supported FRS personnel for over 80 years.

The work is being led by the Fire Fighters Charity in conjunction with Dr Rowena Hill, Professor of Resilience, Emergencies and Disaster Science, who has been researching the UK Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) for the last twenty years.

The research team would like to inform participants that one of our partner organisations, Nottingham Trent University, have reviewed the research ethics of this project and have given a favourable ethics opinion by the Schools of Business, Law and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

What will I have to do?

By agreeing to take part in the survey, we will ask you a number of questions based around your thoughts and experiences of working in or being in a relationship with someone who works in, the Fire and Rescue sector.



You will be asked to provide demographic information, such as your age and the county where you live. We will also ask you about your partner relationship and how the Fire Service occupation impacts on it. We will ask about positive and negative aspects of this.

It is estimated that the study will take no longer than 30 mins to complete.

It is important for you to know that participation is purely voluntary. Your decision to take part, or not, is entirely up to you.

Please be assured that your participation, or not, remains entirely confidential. It will not be communicated back to employers (if the request comes through the Fire related organisation) or any services that you may be availing of.

Please be assured also that your decision whether to participate, or not, will not have an impact on any services you are receiving from the Fire Fighters Charity, or may receive in the future.

Will I be kept anonymous?

There will be no personally identifiable information collected from you during the study – the software makes you anonymous when you submit your answers so that we don't see your identity.

All of your data will be collected and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR). The data will be securely stored by The Fire Fighters Charity

***Optional ***

You will have the opportunity to take part in an optional prize draw for a £50 gift card (Three prizes available) and one prize of a one week stay at one of the Charity centre's self-catering cottages.

The draw will take place once all responses have been submitted to the survey and only successful participants will be contacted. If you would like to take part in the draw, we will ask you for your email address for this purpose only. Your email address will be stored in a separate location to the data collected during the survey and deleted shortly after the draw.

What will you do with my answers?

Your data will be analysed alongside the data of all participants and general trends and patterns will be reported. All data is anonymous.



The analysis will be used to inform the Thriving Relationships project and the development of practical tools and resources for FRS personnel and partners of FRS personnel to support their partner relationships to thrive.

It may also be written up for publication in a peer reviewed journal or presented at conference. The general trends and patterns may also be presented to interested parties such as the National Fire Chiefs Council, other Fire Services, the Home Office, and other academics.

What if change my mind about taking part or become upset by any of the questions?

You can end the survey at any point without giving reasons.

You can do this by exiting your internet browser and your data will be automatically destroyed.

Everyone is different, and some of the questions may be sensitive to you depending on your circumstances. If you experience any distress or adverse effects as a result of your participation after you have completed the survey, then please ring the 'access support' line of the Firefighters Charity on **0800 3898820**. **The phone line is open from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday**, where you can speak to a member of their team.

Or you can complete an online form here:

<https://www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/enquire-about-our-services/>

You can also contact *Relate* at www.relate.org.uk

Alternatively, you can make an appointment to visit your GP to discuss any adverse effects of the research if they arise.

Can I request a summary of the survey findings?

A summary of the results will be sent out by the Fire Fighters charity using our usual social media channels, website and Shout! Magazine

You may also contact the researcher if you have further questions or wish to may receive a summary of the results, which should be available from June 2025.



The researcher can be contacted through the Director of Health Improvement and Influencing, Joss Gaynor. Her email address is

Researchers@firefighterscharity.org.uk

If you have any concerns about the research and wish to address them to someone at Nottingham Trent University, you may contact the Co-Investigator,

Professor Rowena Hill,

School of Social Sciences

Nottingham Trent University

50 Shakespeare Street

Nottingham, NG1 1FQ

Tel: +44 (0)115 848 5532

Email: rowena.hill@ntu.ac.uk

If at any stage you have any concerns or complaints regarding the project and would like to speak with someone at NTU who is not directly involved in this research, or if you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact:

Professor Suvo Mitra

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NTU Research Privacy Notice (RPN)

The Research Privacy Notice outlines what NTU does with personal data and how we protect personal data and the rights of research participants during research activities in accordance with UK GDPR/ Data Protection Act 2018. For more information regarding the RPN, please click on the following

link: <https://www.ntu.ac.uk/p...research-privacy-notice>

