****Department of Sociology

University of Warwick

Coventry CV4 7AL

United Kingdom

23rd February 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I am contacting you as a researcher from the University of Warwick. My name is Dr Angharad Butler-Rees and I am working alongside my colleague Dr Stella Chatzitheochari on a study into the educational pathways and work outcomes of disabled young people in England. I am contacting you as parent or guardian of a young person who will soon be completing their GCSEs and transitioning to post-16 education, employment or training. We are keen to interview young people with a disability or learning difficulty about their experience of making this transition and are contacting you to see if this is something that you’d be happy for the young person in your care to take part in.

The study will analyse and explore the educational transitions and labour market outcomes of young people with a disability and/or learning difficulty in England. We will be focusing in particular on the experiences of young people with autism, dyslexia and/or mobility difficullties. We use the term ‘disability’ to refer to a long-term physical or mental impairment which affects an individual’s ability to carry out daily activities. The term ‘learning difficulty’ is used to refer to a condition or impairment that create an obstacle to learning and may warrant special educational provisional at school. These definitions are in line with the Equality Act 2010 and Children & Families Act 2014.

We hope to interview approximately 60 young people from across England both before their GCSEs and a year afterwards. You can find out more information about the study in the parental participant information sheet attached. I am also more than happy to answer any further questions that you may have.

If having read the parental participant information sheet, you would be happy for the young person to take part in this study, please sent an email expressing your interest to disabled.transitions@warwick.ac.uk. We will then arrange a short meeting with you where I can tell you more about the research and what participation will involve.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Dr Angharad Butler-Rees

Research Fellow

University of Warwick