

5. Involving Children and Vulnerable Adults in Research

Clinical research involving children (i.e. under 18s) is vital to increase our knowledge of childhood conditions and improve healthcare for children. *Similarly, the involvement of vulnerable adults in research can provide a wide range of beneficial insight and evidence.*

There are important considerations prior to involving children and/or vulnerable adults e.g. DBS checks, consent and payment issues. Furthermore, researchers, professionals and parents/carers/guardians often feel anxious about asking children *and/or vulnerable adults* to take part in research, for example, because of potential risks or *perceived* burdens.

The University's Policy on Research involving Children and/or Vulnerable Adults (link [here](#)) gives an overview of these considerations and guidance on how certain practicalities should be handled.

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics has *also* published a report and a number of resources for researchers to consider how children and young people can ethically be involved in research. You can access these resources [here](#).