

The Making Noise Project: Children's voices for positive change after sexual abuse

Practitioner's fact sheet about project and children and young people's involvement

About the CSAFE research project

The CSAFE research project focuses on improving help seeking and support for children and young people who may be affected by sexual abuse within the family environment*. It is undertaken by a partnership between the 'International Centre: Researching Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence and Trafficking' at the University of Bedfordshire, and the NSPCC.

The project runs from March 2015 – July 2016 and is funded by the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England (OCCE). The project forms part of the OCCE's wider inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment (CSAFE), further details of which are available at:

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_866

**For the purposes of this research the term 'sexually abused in the family environment' is taken to encompass CSA against any child or young person under 18 years of age perpetrated or facilitated –within or outside the family home - by: a family member; or someone otherwise linked to the family context (to include any members of a foster family, adults recognised and identified by the child as a member of their extended family and individuals such as babysitters caring for the child in the home on an informal basis).*

What are the CSAFE research project aims?

You can find more about the project aims via our website: <http://www.beds.ac.uk/ic/current-projects/making-noise-csafe>

How will the CSAFE research project take place?

Children and young people are engaged through two routes:

- face to face interviews
- online survey

How will the survey take place?

This leaflet is about the survey. The survey will be a structured questionnaire exploring help-seeking through questions about a hypothetical character. **No questions on the survey will directly ask about children and young people's own experiences of abuse or help-seeking.**

Using this approach the survey seeks to ask children and young people's views on:

- Children's access to information and preventative education about child abuse

- Their understanding of service availability, and
- Factors that might increase their confidence to seek support

Participants have the option of completing this survey online or in hard copy form if completing the survey online is not appropriate. **The survey will not be distributed or accessible on an open access basis.**

Who are the children and young people we would like to involve in the survey?

In order to invite children and young people to take part in the survey they must:

- 1. Understand what the project is about**
- 2. Be aged between 11 and 18 years** (can include young people who are 18 (or 19 in some exceptional circumstances)
- 3. Not be involved in a live investigation** relating to sexual abuse in the family environment
- 4. Be unlikely to experience undue distress** by being approached about or involved in this research.
- 5. If under 14 - have parental or carer consent** to participate (13yrs and under). ****Unless reasons why not in best interests to approach parents.**
- 6. Have resources available (or able to be arranged at cost to research team) to support them to participate** in the survey if they agree (e.g. translator or communication specialist, worker who can support them)
- 7. Have access to a known, named source of follow up support** who has safeguarding expertise, both directly after completing the survey and for at least two months following completion of the survey (recognising that any triggers of distress or a need for support that survey participation may pose may only emerge some-time after completion of the survey).

Protecting the welfare of participants

Protecting the safeguarding and wellbeing of all young participants remains the priority of this project throughout.

The research has been through ethical review processes at the University of Bedfordshire and the NSPCC and Local Authority Ethics Committees. It is being kept under review by a multi-agency research project advisory group (RPAG) and a young people's advisory group (YPAG) facilitated by NSPCC Participation Unit.

Reciprocity

Unless the policies of referring agencies prohibit this, all young people who participate in the research will receive a £10 voucher as a token of thanks for their contribution. If the provision of a voucher is in conflict with the policy of the referring agency, alternative forms of reciprocity will be explored.

Feedback and follow up

The research will be published by the OCCE in summer 2016. All participants, parents, carers and supporting practitioners and agencies will be notified about the publication of the research prior to its release. Copies of the research report, summary and an accessible version for children and young people will be made available to all those who contributed to the research.

If you have any questions, you would like to see a copy of the survey questions, or would be happy to help facilitate the involvement of children and young people in the research, please contact the research team on the details below:

Project Manager and Research Lead: Dr Helen Beckett | helen.beckett@beds.ac.uk | Tel. 07725 217231.

Research Fellow: Dr Camille Warrington | Camille.warrington@beds.ac.uk | Tel. 07912 778 318

Complaints

If you have any complaints about the conduct of the research these can be addressed in the first instance to Professor Mike Fisher (Director of the Institute of Applied Social Research at the University of Bedfordshire) at mike.fisher@beds.ac.uk.

Alternatively if you would like to complain about any aspect of the study, the NSPCC has established a complaints procedure. To complain about the study, you can do so to any NSPCC member of staff, volunteer, or local office. Alternatively, please email comments@nspcc.org.uk, call 020 7825 7445, you can then ask to speak to Patricia Bojang and inform them that the name of the project is: **CSAFE Research Project**

To help us respond to your comment or complaint effectively, please tell us which of our studies it relates to. Also, please include your full name, contact details, and let us know how you would like us to contact you.

You could also write to the NSPCC Information Service at: Arnold House, 21-33 Great Eastern Street, London, EC2A 3EJ

Further details of our complaints procedures can be found here: http://www.nspcc.org.uk/help-and-advice/enquiries/frequently-asked-questions_wda83770.html#complaint

A copy of our full Ethical Statement is available on request (contact details above).