



# Learning Together: Involving children and youth in research about sexual abuse

## Survey Information Sheet

### What is the 'Learning Together' project?

The Learning Together project seeks to support the safe and ethical engagement of children and young people in research addressing the issue of sexual abuse.

We use the term research broadly, to include qualitative and quantitative research, evaluations and other similar learning initiatives

We use the term researcher to describe anyone undertaking these activities (not just those whose job titles are researcher)

We use the term sexual abuse in relation to children; including any form of sexual harm affecting those aged under 18

Whilst there is a growing recognition of the importance of involving children and young people in research in this field – and ethical guidelines and toolkits that can helpfully support thinking about it – there is a need for further learning around the real life challenges of translating these commitments into practice.

Learning Together seeks to support this learning through sharing real-life research scenarios and resources, creating opportunities for peer learning and a youth-led project about what safe and ethical research means to them.

The project is being run by the [Safer Young Lives Research Centre](#) (SYLRC) at the University of Bedfordshire in the United Kingdom. It will run until autumn 2023.

### Learning Together Survey

The first part of the project uses surveys to understand the key challenges people face when involving (or seeking to involve) children in research on sexual abuse.

This includes research:

- Specifically focused on sexual abuse AND wider research that includes sexual abuse within its remit
- Involving children with known experiences of sexual abuse AND that involving wider cohorts of children, whose experiences of sexual abuse are unknown

- Addressing any aspect of sexual abuse, including prevention, awareness, experiences, responses and recovery.

We have chosen to focus this stage of the project on children (under 18) given the more limited evidence base around this. Considerations for involving young people, aged 18 and over, will be addressed in later stages of the project.

The survey has received ethical approval from the Institute of Applied Social Research at the University of Bedfordshire.

### **Who can take part?**

We want to hear from those who have already involved children in research around sexual abuse

survey responses. You will be directed to this at the end of the survey, or if you will not be completing the survey, you can register your interest in being kept informed about the project, by clicking on [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) and subscribing to our mailing list.

### **Withdrawal from the survey**

You can withdraw from the surveys at any point by closing the browser. Your answers will not be included in the analysis unless you receive a message confirming your answers have been recorded.

You can also withdraw your contribution anytime before Tuesday 15th November 2022. As the surveys are anonymous, you will be asked to provide a unique identifier at the start of the survey, and keep a record of the date on which you completed it, so we can identify your contribution should you wish to withdraw it. To withdraw your contribution, just email these details, and which survey you completed, to [claire.soares@beds.ac.uk](mailto:claire.soares@beds.ac.uk)

### **What we will do with the survey responses**

Once the surveys have closed, we will analyse the data to identify key emerging themes and issues. We will write a short report highlighting these, and also use the learning to inform the focus of subsequent phases of the Learning Together project. Survey findings will also be used in academic articles and other project outputs.

In submitting your survey response, you are agreeing for your responses to be used in this way, unless you wish to opt out. You can opt out by emailing [claire.soares@beds.ac.uk](mailto:claire.soares@beds.ac.uk) or by clicking on the 'opt out' link in the survey.

If completing the survey raises any questions or difficulties for you, we would encourage you to seek support from the relevant person(s) in your organisations or local area, or visit the following websites for information about ethics, or information about support organisations that cover your region:

Ethical Research Involving Children (ERIC) website: <https://childethics.com/>

Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) <https://www.svri.org/>

Rape Crisis Network Europe: <https://www.rcne.com/>

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence: <https://www.api-gbv.org/>

### **Next steps**

Have a think about whether you would like to take part in the survey. If you would like to, follow the link to the survey that best fits your experience:

If you have already involved children in research about sexual abuse, [click here](#)

If you have not yet involved children in research about sexual abuse, but want to do so, [click here](#)

The surveys will close at midnight on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022**.

You will be asked at the beginning of the survey to confirm you have read and understood this information sheet and to record your consent to take part before moving through to the main survey questions.

If you would like to speak to someone before making a decision, you can contact Claire or Helen at [claire.soares@beds.ac.uk](mailto:claire.soares@beds.ac.uk) or [helen.beckett@beds.ac.uk](mailto:helen.beckett@beds.ac.uk)

If you do not wish to take part, there is nothing further you need to do. If, however, you wish to be kept informed about subsequent stages of the Learning Together project and any associated outputs you can subscribe to our mailing list [here](#)

Many thanks,

The Learning Together project team