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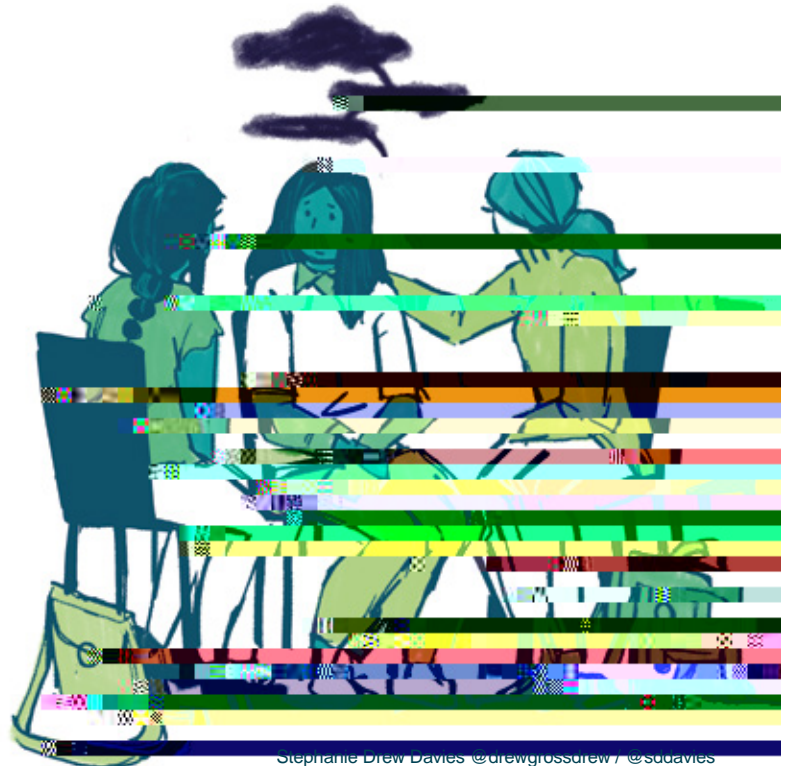
The sample included a number of representatives from organisations who had mentoring models in place for young people affected by sexual violence. Three of these organisations employed individuals with lived experience of sexual exploitation/trafficking (who were not former service users of their organisations) as mentors to work with the young people they were supporting. Of these three, two were specialist services designed to serve young people affected by sexual exploitation and trafficking. The other was an organisation serving a broader group of young people, however the mentoring programme was set up specifically for those with experiences of sexual exploitation and trafficking. All three were based in North America.

Representatives from two other organisations and initiatives were, or had, designed and supported a specialist mentoring programme for young people who were experiencing sexual exploitation and trafficking. These programmes included a mix of mentors including those with and without lived experience. Both of these initiatives were located in North America and had experience of serving a broader population of young people. One employed mentors as staff and the other recruited volunteer mentors.

In addition the research team interviewed members of staff from two other organisations who had established a peer mentoring programme. In both cases mentors were current or former service users and worked as volunteers. One organisation was a peer led support organisation for women and the other a specialist service for sexually exploited and trafficked young people. Both of these were located in Europe. A further organisation represented in the study, also based in Europe, was developing a model of peer support within their organisation; supporting a service user to lead workshops for other young women who had experienced trafficking.

Due to the limited number of examples of peer support initiatives for young people affected by sexual violence, the research team also interviewed two individuals who had been engaged in group work with young people affected by sexual exploitation and trafficking. These interviewees were able to provide insights into the role of 'peers', the dynamics, and the potential value and challenges of peer support with this particular population.

Seven 'peer supporters', those with lived experience, who had, or were in the process of being trained to support other young people were also interviewed⁴.



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⁴ In this paper the term 'peer supporter' is used as a broad term to refer to individuals with lived experience of sexual violence providing support to young people affected by the issue. The term 'peer supporter' includes individuals with lived experience mentoring young people, running workshops and groups and engaging in other supportive activities.

Table 2: Peer supporter respondents.

| RESPONDENT |
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