**Participant information and consent template pack**

**Contents:**

* Project participant information sheet
* Age appropriate participant information sheet for younger participants to accompany guardian consent process
* Project consent form
* Guardian consent form

Birmingham Youth Service Peer Research

**Information sheet:**

Thank you for your interest in taking part in this Peer Action Collective research project with Birmingham Youth Service. This sheet tells you more about the project to help you decide whether you would like to get involved.

**What is the Peer Action Collective?**

The Peer Action Collective is a £5.2 million programme, which aims to give young people the chance to make their communities safer, fairer places to live. It is funded by the [Youth Endowment Fund](https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/), the [#iwill Fund](https://www.iwill.org.uk/about-us/iwillfund) (a joint investment between The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) and the [Co-op Group](https://www.co-operative.coop/).

All too often, young people who experience violence aren’t heard. The PAC a ground-breaking network of peer researchers. That means that young people will be in charge of asking questions and finding out what needs to happen to make their area a better place to live. It’s about more than learning about what needs to change. Being part of the PAC means young people will get support to take their research and turn it into action.

Birmingham Youth Service provides young people with enjoyable opportunities and challenging experiences together with information, support and guidance in order to enable them to achieve and develop their skills, abilities, self-esteem, values and identity in their transition to adult life.

**What is this project about?**

The peer research action project is a piece of research being carried out by Birmingham Youth Service. It aims to capture the views and life experiences of young people in the city aged 10-18 years old. We will do this by carryout out a number of activities and discussions using methods like one to one interview, focus groups and creative projects. This will be carried out by our peer researchers who are aged 16-20 years and will be supported by our qualified youth workers. The aim is to gather the views of 480 young people from across the city in order to answer the research question:

**“What is it that children and young people experience that influence them to become involved in youth violence or not”.**

The overall objective of the project is to identify how young people can create change informed by the feedback and results of the research question. In order to create change several social actions projects will be developed that aim to influence change in turn contributing to the reduction of youth violence in our city.

**What is involved in taking part?**

* The interview will last for 45 minutes and can take place on a day and at a time that is convenient for you.
* The focus group will last for approximately 80 minutes and will be arranged within different locations. Your Youth Worker, Leader, Teacher will inform you of the locations, time and date. There will be six other young people taking part in the session.
* Creative project will last for approximately 90 minutes. Your Youth Worker, Leader, Teacher will inform you of the locations, time and date. There will be six other young people taking part in the session.

Please note that this research is a space for conversation and sharing insights; We are not looking for any particular answers. We are just interested in your views and experiences.

Our one 2 one interview conversation will be recorded through a specialist and secure app I have on my phone (‘Fatima’).

Our activities sessions will be audio recorded via Dictaphone.

**What are the benefits of taking part?**

By taking part in this research you will be contributing to research that will have an important influence on government, policy-makers and funders, on issues that directly affect young people. You will also be helping local young people to create change in our area.

For participants that become upset or distressed a youth worker will be on call to support the peer research and participant. Birmingham City Council have policies and protocols in place including referral pathways.

If you have any concerns after taking part please contact a worker at the project who will make contact with the Peer Researchers Senior Youth Worker.

**Will my involvement be confidential?**

The only people who will know that you have taken part are you and me, and staff at Birmingham Youth Service and lead designated safeguarding officer if required. As this is a national programme, it will be possible for staff at [The Young Foundation](https://www.youngfoundation.org/), a UK charity, to see who has taken part, as they are helping us with the research and analysis. The Youth Endowment Fund will also have access to this information. The Young Foundation and Youth Endowment Fund will only use this data for administrative and research purposes.

Everything you say to me will be confidential and only used for research purposes. The exception is if you tell me something which I am required by law to share with others, or if you tell me something that suggests you or someone else is at risk of harm. I will tell you if I need to do this.

**How will you use my data?**

What you tell me will be analysed with information from other people who take part in the research. Before your data is used, I will make sure it doesn’t contain anything that could identify you personally. The data will be used to create public reports and presentations, and in other ways of sharing with people what we have learned. We may include quotes, but these will never identify you.

Anonymised data will also be shared with the funders and other partners of this project.

Your personal details, such as name and contact details, will be kept for up to four years on the app. Only the Youth Endowment Fund will have access to this. The Youth Endowment Fund will use the data to create further reports through further analysis of the data once the programme has concluded. All other copies of your information will be destroyed at the end of the programme in December 2022.

**What if I change my mind?**

You can change your mind about taking part at any point, including during the research. You do not need to give a reason. You can also change your mind about having your data used for up to two weeks after the research. After this time your data will be in the analysis and it may not be possible to remove it. You can contact senior youth worker: Elaine Allen. [Elaine.A.Allen@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.A.Allen@birmingham.gov.uk) or by telephone on:07517561228

**Thank you for taking the time to read this form!**

**The big question: -**

**“What is it that children and young people experience that influence them to become involved in youth violence or not”.**

**Information sheet to be read and discussed with guardian**

Birmingham Youth Service would like to ask you to take part in a research study.

Before you decide, it is important for you to understand what the study is about and what will happen to your data if you take part.

Please read this information carefully and ask us about anything that you do not understand.

**What is the study for?**

The study is being done by young people like you who want to find out about what needs to happen to make our area a better place to live.

**What is this project about?**

The peer research action project is a piece of research being carried out by Birmingham Youth Service. It aims to capture the views and life experiences of young people in the city aged 10-18 years. We will do this by carrying out a number of activities and discussions using methods like one to one interviews, focus groups and creative projects. This will be carried out by our Peer Researchers who are aged 16-20 years and will be supported by our qualified youth workers.

**What will happen if I take part?**

* We will ask you to tell us how you feel by asking you some questions
* We will run an activity with you and other children/young people to find out what’s important to you
* There are no right or wrong answers

Our conversation will be recorded through a dictator phone throughout the duration of the session.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. You do not have to take part if you do not want to.

You can change your mind about taking part at any time without saying why.

The only people who will know that you have taken part are you and me, your parent/guardian and staff at the PAC project.

**What do I do now?**

You need to decide if you want to take part or not.

**Who can I ask about this?**

Your mum or dad, or carerhave been given lots of information about the project, you can talk to them and they can help you decide if you want to take part, remember you do not have to take part. You can also talk to the Peer Researchers Senior Youth Worker if you have any questions.