

**Participant Information Sheet
(Version 4.1) June 2009**

Study Title: Exploring implications and benefits of holistic working with young people who have sexually harmed.

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done, and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Please feel free to ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the study about? There is increasing reference to working holistically with young people who have sexually harmed, but no clear framework and little literature describing how this can be achieved. The researcher's Master's study identified a range of definitions of holistic working which were presented in a survey to a wider group of professionals. The research forum is designed to allow further exploration of these results and identify ways forward to investigate more implications and benefits of holistic working.

Why have I been chosen? Participants are sought from varied professional groups who work with young people who have sexually harmed. Contacts from previous research and conferences will be asked to pass on the forum details to their contacts and colleagues.

Who is involved in the study? The study is led by a research student from the Community and Criminal Justice Division at De Montfort University, Leicester with the supervision of departmental staff.

Do I have to take part? No, the study is entirely voluntary. If you decide to take part, you are advised to keep a copy of this information sheet and you will be asked to register your consent to take part when accepting the registration agreement for the forum. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw from the study at any time. You do not need to give a reason if you wish to withdraw.

What is involved? The forum is run online via the researcher's own website, www.wildgoosetherapy.com/research and uses software from YABB. Participants choose their own display name so are able to protect their own confidentiality. Within the forum there are a range of discussions on the findings so far, research diagrams and fictional case studies. There are useful links to resources and the opportunities for participants to introduce their own discussion topics. Participants can join in as fully as they choose, but accept that all discussions may be used anonymously as part of the PhD research.

What happens to the information? All the information will be treated by the researcher as confidential. No one will be able to identify you from the study unless you choose a display name which might identify you to other participants. Only approved members of the site should be able to read any postings, however like most internet use this cannot be 100% guaranteed. No participants are expected to share any sensitive information. Participants will be asked to report any concerning postings to the researcher who will act as the forum moderator. The notes taken by the researcher will be kept safely in locked files and only the researcher and supervisor can see them. Printed data will only have codes and not names in order to safeguard confidentiality. All data will be treated in accordance with the current Data Protection Act.

What if I wish to complain? Please raise any difficulties or questions with the researcher in the first instance. Sharon can be contacted on 0121 515 3110 or by email at sharon@wildgoosetherapy.com. If you have any major concerns please contact her supervisor, Principal Lecturer Dr Brian Stout on 0116 257 7728 or bstout@dmu.ac.uk.

What will happen to the results of the study? The results of the study will form the second stage of the researcher's PhD Thesis and will be subject to academic scrutiny. The results will be made available following the marking of the study in 2010. You will be able to receive a copy of a summary of the results if you wish. No individual or organisation will be identified in any report.

Who is organising and funding the study? The study is organised by the researcher in the Community & Criminal Justice Division at De Montfort University. The researcher is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The study has been passed by the University Research Ethics Committee.

Contact for further information: If you would like any further information about the study please contact Sharon Hall on (0121) 515 3110. Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. I am very grateful for your participation in this study. Sharon Hall