

Consent Form

Participant Information sheet (for parents/guardians)

Researchers from the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (WMVRP) data team would like to invite your child to take part in a study via a workshop focus group. This document tells you about the workshop and helps answer any questions that you might have about it. Once you have read the sheet, you can decide whether you would like your child to take part or not.

Who are the Violence Reduction Partnership? The West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership aims to reduce violent crime across the West Midlands region. The WMVRP works closely with the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and benefits from the expertise of partners in public health, criminal justice, sports, education, and policing to take a collaborative approach towards reducing violence.

What is the purpose of this study? We are interested in finding out about your child's opinions on their feelings of safety. We'd like to use their views and thoughts to guide how we could go forward and tackle local issues affecting children and young people, specifically serious youth violence such as knife crime and exploitation and make the local area safer.

Does your child have to take part? No, it is up to you to decide if your child takes part in this workshop. If you are happy for them to participate, please see and sign the consent form below.

What if I change my mind? If at any time you change your mind about your child taking part, that's fine. If you wish for your child to not take part before the workshop, please return the consent form unsigned to their school and let organisers know.

What will they be asked to do if I decide to take part? If you decide you would like your child to take part and your child consents, they will attend a session during a designated time that will last approximately one hour. We will arrange a convenient date with their host organisation for when this will take place. Before any children and/or young people take part, the focus group will be explained to them again and they will also have the opportunity to consent. Two staff members from the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (WMVRP) will be present during the workshop if there are any questions.

Are there any possible risks of taking part? We do not expect there to be any negative effects as a result of taking part. However, we appreciate discussions of crime and local issues may be triggering or distressing, and so, you and your child are free to withdraw or stop at any point, and do not have to give a reason for this. If you do wish to withdraw them from the study, please inform the host organisation or researchers. This consultation is not to be used to report information about current or past personal incidents of violence, that have or have not been reported to the police and personal or identifying information should not be discussed. However, we know that sharing of sensitive information or personal experience could happen and this will be managed with care by the host organisation's safeguarding policy.

What are the possible benefits of taking part? Taking part in this workshop will provide your child with an opportunity to share their views, as well as to help and contribute to how local issues such as youth violence are tackled by organisations. This will also be an opportunity for them to learn more about services available to them.

What will happen to my information? All information your child provides will be made anonymous. This means that we will not share the details of their participation with anyone. To protect their identity, your child will be referred to by a unique identification number and all identifying information (such as names and places) will be changed. The focus group participants will be audio recorded, however, once typed up, the digital recording will be deleted. To protect participants' identities, signed consent forms and data will be stored separately. Information from participants will be entered into databases for analysis and stored on encrypted and password protected computers. All data will be stored according to the [Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Privacy policy](#) and treated in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the [Data Protection Act 2018](#). Your child will not be identifiable through any of the research reports.

Want to know more about the research? If you have further questions about the study, you can ask organisers who would be happy to provide more information and answer any questions.

Lead Researcher - Pooja Kaur, Data and Evaluation Officer – Violence Reduction Partnership

Contact email: vyp@westmidlands.police.uk Thank you for reading this information sheet.

Please complete the below consent agreement if you are happy for your child to participate:

Consent agreement

1. Name of child

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2. Name of parent/guardian

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3. I confirm that I have read the information sheet for the above study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions if needed and am satisfied with the answers given
4. I understand that my child's participation is voluntary and that I or my child can stop taking part at any time without giving a reason, without my legal rights being affected
5. I understand the focus group will be audio recorded but deleted once transcribed and that my child's name, or any other identifying information, will not appear in any reports or publications
6. I understand that the findings of this study will be shared in a report for the Violence Reduction Partnership but that names will not be used
7. I agree for my child can take part in the above study