

## **Information Leaflet for potential participants**

### **What is the purpose of this study?**

The study aims to develop further understanding on male survivors' perspective of personal therapy. Males who are survivors of sexual trauma will be asked to talk about their experience of personal therapy. For confidentiality purposes, male survivors who are waiting to provide evidence in court due to their sexual trauma will not be included. The information from this study will help people who work in the field and service providers to further their understanding of the clients' perspective and how therapy has contributed to the recovery.

### **What will happen if I take part/What do I have to do?**

If you agree to take part, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire via the internet and then have a choice to meet the researcher for a one to one interview at a convenient location. The questionnaire and interview will last approximately one hour; and will involve a series of open questions about your experience of therapy. How much you disclose during the interview or questionnaire will be at your discretion and the interview can be stopped at any time if you wish.

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

In participating in this study, you will have an opportunity to talk about your own experience of therapy. Telling your story may be helpful to you. Also you will be helping to advance knowledge and understanding of the role of therapy in male survivors of sexual trauma. The more that is known about male survivors perspective, the better treatments and services can become.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

The disadvantages or risks of you taking part are minimal. However, there is a possibility that taking part stirs up distressing memories. If you have any concerns about this or any other

questions about participating in the study, the researcher is more than happy to talk to you before you make any decision.

### **Should I take part?**

It is your choice to decide whether you wish or wish not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form, a signed copy of which you will receive. You are free to withdraw at any time and without giving any reason.

### **What if something goes wrong?**

It is not expected that you will experience any harm as a result of taking part in this research but if you are adversely affected by taking part in this study. The interview can be stopped at any time if you wish or if you become distressed. However, the researcher is ethically and legally obliged to tell you that there are no special compensation arrangements. You will be asked to input a code that is unique to you when completing the questionnaire; this code must not be related to your identity e.g. name. The code will be used to identify your questionnaire if you wish to withdraw from the research.

### **Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

You may find it helpful to tell someone, such as a close family member or your therapist that you are taking part in this study. I will not inform any of these people. The only exception to this would be if information emerges that raises serious concerns about your well-being or the safety of another person. In this event the researcher will discuss with you the best course of action. What you say during this study will be handled very carefully. The researcher will also want to share the content of interviews and questionnaire with supervisors and possibly use excerpts from interviews too. However, all identifying information will be removed and all excerpts will be anonymous. All information will be held in a secure office in a locked filing cabinet. Instead of your name, you will have a unique research code number. Additionally for confidentiality purposes,

male survivors who are waiting to provide evidence in court due to their sexual trauma will not be included.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

It is hoped that the results of this research will be published in a scientific journal and the researcher would be happy to inform you of where to obtain a copy if they are. You will remain anonymous and all information remains confidential.

**Who is organising the research?**

I am a postgraduate student at the University of Teesside and am doing this study as part of my work for my Doctoral in Counselling Psychology. My motivation for doing this study comes from the limited research that is conducted to date in reference to the male survivors' perspective of therapy.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

The study has been approved by the Research Ethics of the University of Teesside. The study will also be reviewed on a regular basis by Dr. Ann Marie Harrison Chartered Psychologist, who has been assigned as the supervisor for this research and who is based at the University of Teesside ( a.m.harrison@tees.ac.uk).

**How can I take part within this study?**

To take part in this research please click/follow the below link:

<http://fs20.formsite.com/research/form22931789/index.html>

If you would like to arrange an interview please contact the researcher on: H8075703@tees.ac.uk

*Information Leaflet*

*for*

*Potential Participants*

*Male survivors of Sexual Trauma: The client perspective of therapy*