**Parent / Carer, Child and Young Person Information Sheet – FIP Service**

*What is the project about?*

We are inviting you to take part in a new project at the Children & Young Persons’ Havens (CYP Havens) and the Lighthouse. We are trying a new way of doing forensic interviews with children and young people who report sexual abuse to the police. The project is called the **Forensic Interview Psychology (FIP) Service**.

A forensic interview is a conversation about what happened to the child or young person. Forensic interviews are audio and video recorded and are used as part of the police investigation. The recording can also be shown at court during a trial.

Forensic interview are usually done by a police officer in a police interviewing room. In the FIP Service, the interviews are done by a specially trained clinical psychologist in a comfortable interview room at CYP Havens or the Lighthouse.

*What will happen if I consent to take part in this project?*

You will come to CYP Havens or the Lighthouse to meet with a clinical psychologist. The psychologist will do an assessment with you to help you feel more comfortable during the interview. The assessment also helps the psychologist decide how to support you so that you can tell them what happened to you.

The forensic interview is done after a break or on a different day (depending on what works best for you). It is done in the same room, by the same psychologist. A police officer will be there to supervise the interview. A support person and a social worker may also be there but they will watch the interview from a different room, by video link. This is the same when interviews are done by the police.

The clinical psychologist will then write a short report called the MG11 saying what support you might find helpful at court.

*What information do you collect about me and what happens to it?*

Similar to police forensic interviews, an **audio and video recording** of the forensic interview will be created and stored securely. The recording is part of the police investigation and may be shown at court during trial. The recording may also be shared with CYP Havens or Lighthouse staff who work with you to help them care for you.

Police will complete a **referral form** to ask that your interview is done by a psychologist at CYP Haven or the Lighthouse. The psychologist and the police complete a **checklist** together after the interview. The clinical psychologist also completes an **interview record** and a **short report (MG11)**. These documents are part of the police investigation and may be shown at court. The report may also be shared with your social worker (if you have one).

The audio-video recording will also be reviewed by a police trainer to give feedback on the psychologist (not you or what you say). This is done to help us develop our skills and to evaluate the project. All information collected to evaluate the project will be anonymous and is not part of the police investigation. All documents will be stored securely in locked filing cabinets.

If you decide to have your forensic interview done at CYP Haven or the Lighthouse, we will ask you if you want to take part in a research study. Taking parts means that some of the information that we collect is presented at conferences or published in journals. The information we use for research is anonymous and combined – this means that no one will be able to tell that it is about you.

*What are the possible risks of taking part in the project?*

Forensic interviews have not been carried out by clinical psychologists in the UK before. There is a risk that clinical psychologist are not able to collect the same information as an experienced police officer. We have taken these steps to reduce this risk:

* The clinical psychologists have completed forensic interview training with the police, and will have ongoing supervision and training.
* All interviews will follow *Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings Guidelines*, and will be supervised by the police.
* All interviews will be checked by the police, who will complete a checklist with the clinical psychologist.

*What are the possible benefits of taking part in the project?*

This way of completing forensic interviews has been used in Europe for some time. In Europe, it has given children and young people a better experience during the interview. It has also helped improve criminal justice results. We hope that this way of doing forensic interviews will make it easier for children and young people to tell what happened and feel less upset or uncomfortable during the interview.

*How is the project being evaluated?*

We will ask you to complete a feedback form, telling us what you thought and felt during the interview.

We are also collecting feedback on the clinical psychologists from the police using the audio-video recording. They will give anonymised feedback which means that it will not have anyone’s name on it. We are also looking at the outcome of police investigations to see if the interviews have different criminal justice results.

The findings of the project will be used to make decisions about service development in the UK. All published information will be anonymous (i.e. without your name or identifying characteristics) so that you cannot be identified.

*What can I do instead, if I do not want to take part in this project?*

Taking part in the project is voluntary and your care will not change if you do not take part. Instead of taking part in the project, you can choose to be interviewed as usual by a police officer in a police interview room.

*Who can I contact if I have any questions about the project?*

You can speak to the police officer in charge of your case. You can also contact a specially trained police officer or the psychologists at CYP Havens (Evelina Medin and Rhianna Watts) suing this email address: [SC&OMailbox-.ChildHouse@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SC&OMailbox-.ChildHouse@met.pnn.police.uk).

*Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.*

**Dr Evelina Medin Dr Rhianna Watts**

**Specialist Clinical Psychologist Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist**

**Havens Children & Young People’s Service (CYP Havens)**

**Key Briefing Points – FIP Service**

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| **1** | This is a project about a new way of doing forensic interviews that has only been used in Europe before. |
| **2** | The interview will be done by a clinical psychologist instead of a police officer in a specially designed interview room. |
| **3** | We hope that this will be better for the child / young person but there are pros and cons in the information sheet that you should think about.  For example, the FIP service may give a better interview experience because the child / young person can tell what happened in a supportive environment which may lead to better criminal justice outcomes, but the psychologist is not an experienced police officer so may get different information from the child / young person. |
| **4** | You can choose to not take part and instead be interviewed by a police officer in a police interviewing room – this will not affect the support you get. |
| **5** | To take part, the child / young person needs to attend CYP Havens in Camberwell (Fridays 9am-5pm) or the Lighthouse in Camden (weekdays, 10am-6pm) for a whole day or two half days. |
| **6** | We will collect some extra information to audit / evaluate the project but it will be kept securely and used anonymously. |
| **7** | You will be asked to sign a consent form when you arrive at CYP Havens/Lighthouse so it is important that you think about your options beforehand. |

**Consent Form – FIP Service**

This form is to confirm your consent for the forensic interview to be carried as part of the FIP Service. Consent is required for points 1-6 for your child to access the service.

Please tick or cross:

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| 1 |  | I confirm that I have read and understood the information sheet and that I have had the opportunity to ask questions. |
| 2 |  | I give consent for the interview to be carried out by a specially trained clinical psychologist in accordance with research evidence and best practice guidelines. I understand that this model that has not been used in the UK before. |
| 3 |  | I give consent for the interview to be audio-video recorded. I understand that the recording will be kept securely consistent with the Data Protection Act 1999. |
| 4 |  | I give consent for the recording and related documents to be shared with the police. I understand that it may be used as evidence in criminal proceedings. |
| 5 |  | I give consent for the recording and related documents to be used to evaluate the project. I understand that results will be reported anonymously and in aggregate, and that my child cannot be identified. |
| 6 |  | I give consent for the recording to be shared anonymously with the VRI trainer for the purpose of supervision and professional development of the interviewer. |
| 7 |  | I give consent for information that is collected to be used for research and for the findings to be published. I understand that results will be reported anonymously and in aggregate, and that my child cannot be identified. Please include an email contact address if you would like to receive a summary of the research findings:  …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… |

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**Child / young person’s signature Child / young person’s name**

*Required for children 15 years+ and for young people aged 13-15 years with capacity to consent.*

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**Parent / carer / guardian’s signature Parent / carer / guardian’s name**

*Required for children < 13 years, or if there are concerns regarding the young person’s capacity.*

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**Interviewer’s signature Interviewer’s name**

Date completed: …………………………………