



Barnardo's

GIVING CHILDREN BACK THEIR FUTURE

Young people and research

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Introduction

- The context in which I work
- Young people as research participants
- Young people as researchers



Context

- Social research within a voluntary organisation
- Research with children and young people
- Participatory approaches
- Focus on two pieces of work:
 - focus groups on research ethics
 - peer research project

Young people as research participants

Information

- bright, colourful, eye-catching
- basic information is important but not too much
- alternatives to written information
- role of the trusted adult
- clear language – ‘research about research’

Young people as research participants

Consent

- *“They should get the parents’ decision. It is about respect for the parents. The parents need to protect their children or at least say that the decision is the child’s.”*
- *“We need to be able to say no.”*



Young people as research participants

Confidentiality

- *'I think the statement is OK. If you tell them in advance that you are going to have to say something then the choice is theirs, to tell you or not tell you'*
- who can you trust?



Young people as research participants

Taking part

- *“Its about respect.”*
- *“It is important to go away feeling that you have been listened to.”*
- *“They shouldn’t badger you to answer a question, they shouldn’t press or hassle you.”*



Young people as research participants

Feedback

- *“I would want a full copy, not a summary, that’s patronising”*
- *“always ask what feedback (do) you want instead of ‘thank you for participating now f*** off’”*



Young people as researchers

Process

- Engaging young people in research
- Motivations for taking part
- Training and skill development
- Model of participation – working in partnership
- Open and honest dialogue



Young people as researchers

Outcomes – personal impact

- Skill development
- Understanding change
- New and positive experiences
- ‘The protection principle’



Young people as researchers

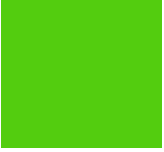
Outcomes – wider impact

- Better or different research?
- Outcomes
- Power
- Influence



Conclusion

- Benefits of user involvement at all levels
- Ethical considerations
- Clear messages from young people



*“You should treat them
(research participants) as you
want to be treated, that’s how
you should treat everyone”*