

SOCIAL MEDIA, ONLINE TRAUMA AND YOUTH VIOLENCE

Research project information sheet

What is the project about?

We are carrying out a research project on behalf of the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (WYVRU) to help us understand more about how social media, violence and the emotional harm that might be experienced could be connected. This research is focusing on the experiences of young people up to the age of 25.

Why are we doing this research?

Previous research has identified that social media may be a contributing factor in violence impacting young people. It is also known that social media can have damaging effects on the mental health of young people and that young people are at risk of various online harms when using social media. We are looking to understand more about these areas so that we can recommend appropriate interventions and inform WYVRU where funding might have the greatest effect.

Who are we?

The research is being conducted by [Social Finance](#). We are a not-for-profit based in London that works on a range of social issues, including housing and homelessness, health and social care, children's services, domestic abuse and education.

Who are we looking to speak to?

We would like to speak to young people, parents and carers, and professionals that work with young people in order to understand the issues from different perspectives.

What will be involved?

The research sessions will mostly be 45 minutes to 1 hour in length and will be conducted either online or in person. The session will involve us asking questions about young people's experience of social media, online trauma and violence.

We will also be distributing surveys for young people and professionals to respond to anonymously.

If you take part in a research session and/or the survey, more information regarding confidentiality, safeguarding and consent will be provided prior to your involvement.

What's in it for me?

The information that we collect through this research will be used to inform WYVRU prevention and support strategies to try and reduce harm to young people. This is a key opportunity to have young people's voices at the centre of this work. Where possible and appropriate, we will look for opportunities for the young people that we speak to to be involved in further development of this research and future interventions development.

What next?

We would be very grateful if you would be happy to be involved in the research. If you think this is something you would like to do, or if you have any further questions, please contact Jessica Hughes-Nind at jessica.hughes-nind@socialfinance.org.uk.