**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**For parent/carer of young people aged under 16**

**Friendship, violence and legal consciousness in the context of joint enterprise**

**Dr Susie Hulley, Dr Tara Young and Dr Gary Pritchard**

**Who are we?**

We are experienced researchers who work at the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University, and Kent University. We do not work for the government, police or the Prison Service. The research is funded by an organisation called the Economic and Social Research Council - the UK’s largest organisation for funding research on economic and social issues.

**Why are we doing this study?**

The research aims to contribute to the debate on ‘joint enterprise’ as a legal response to serious group violence involving young people, to inform policy and practice, and to educate young people. We are interested in finding out more about young people’s relationships, experiences of violence and understandings of the law, as well as police officers and lawyers’ understandings of young people’s involvement in violence and their experiences of working on cases of serious violence involving multiple young people.

**What will participation involve?**

Your young person will be asked to take part in an interview with one of the research team. They will be asked questions about their social relationships, experiences of violence and understanding of the law. The interview will be recorded on a voice recorder, so that we have an accurate description of their experiences (the recording will not have their name on, so that it is anonymous).

**Does the young person have to take part in the study?**

No. The young person’s participation is entirely voluntary. If they do not want to take part, they do not have to, and this will not disadvantage them in any way.

**Are there any risks involved in taking part?**

Your young person will be asked to discuss their knowledge and experiences. Some questions might lead them to reflect on previous experiences. *They do not have to answer any questions they do not wish to and they can stop the interview at any time.* There will be time at the end of the interview to discuss anything they may have found difficult and the researcher can suggest someone else they can talk to if they would like to.

**Are there any benefits in taking part?**

Your young person may find talking about their experiences useful and enjoyable. People who have participated in interviews in the past have valued speaking to someone neutral. They will also be contributing to our understanding of the law and the way in which it is applied in practice. The young person will receive a £20 voucher as recompense for their travel to the interview and any food costs on the day.

**Will what they say be kept confidential?**

Only the research team and the person who transcribes the young person’s interview can listen to it. A written transcript of the interview will be stored securely for an indefinite period. The information the young person shares in the interview will be kept completely confidential, unless they provide details of an offence that they have not yet been convicted for or if they imply that they are a threat to themselves or to other people. In these circumstances, the researcher is obliged to inform the Youth Offending Service.

**Will their contribution remain anonymous?**

If the young person agrees to quotes from the interview being used, this will be done in such a way that they cannot be identified. The researchers give everyone who is interviewed a different name and change any details which could identify the young person.

**How do we agree that the young person can take part in the study?**

If you are happy for your young person to take part, please complete the parent/carer declaration on the leaflet you have been provided. This shows that you are happy for your young person’s details to be given to the research team, that you are happy for them to take part in the interview and that you are happy for their interview to be recorded. Once you have given your consent, your young person will be given their own information sheet, which the researcher will talk through with them. They will then be asked to complete a consent form too. Their consent form will show that they have understood the study and have had a chance to discuss any questions with the researcher. They will also be asked to say whether they are happy for the interview to be recorded.

**What if the young person wants to withdraw from the study?**

Your young person is free to stop the interview or refuse to take part at any stage, without having to explain why. Up until 31st December 2018 (when we will start writing up the research findings), they can also ask that we do not use what they say in the study, again without having to explain why. If they do this, we will destroy the recording they are on and any associated material - making this decision will not be held against them or disadvantage them in any way.

**Where can my young person go for support should participation in the research cause them any anxiety or distress?**

If some of the things your young person discusses in their interview makes them feel anxious or distressed, there are a number of ways that they can access support:

* They can contact ChildLine, a charity that offers help and advice to young people, by phone on 0800 1111 (https://www.childline.org.uk/);or
* They can contact the Samaritans, by phone on 116 123 or by email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org).

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

Your young person’s interview will help us build up an understanding of young people’s social relationships, their experiences of violence and their understanding of joint enterprise. The results will be written up in publications for young people, prisoners and criminal justice practitioners, as well as academic journals and books. The findings may also be discussed in articles written by the researchers, and in discussions or presentations to politicians and people who work in the Criminal Justice System, as well as other university researchers. This would all be done in such a way that your young person could not be personally identified.

**What if I want more information about the study, or want to complain about any aspect of it?**

The study has been reviewed by the Ethics Committee of the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge. If you would like more information or have any questions or complaints about the research please feel free to email us (sh563@cam.ac.uk) or write to us at: The Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

**Thank you for your time in reading this information.**