**Participant Information Sheet**

**Project title**: Domestic violence perpetrator programmes: how do they respond to neurodiversity?

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You are invited to take part in a study that I am conducting as part of an Economic and Social Research Council funded research project at Durham University.

This study has received ethical approval from Durham University Ethics Committee. I also have practice and research experience in the area of domestic abuse and interventions with victim-survivors, perpetrators and practitioners.

Before you decide whether to agree to take part it is important for you to understand the purpose of the research and what is involved as a participant. Please read the following information carefully. Please get in contact if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

The rights and responsibilities of anyone taking part in Durham University research are set out in our ‘Participants Charter’: https://www.dur.ac.uk/research.innovation/governance/ethics/considerations/people/charter/

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

The aim of this study is to identify organisations that deliver domestic violence perpetrator programmes (DVPPs) to male perpetrators and have adapted these for men who are autistic and/or have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) but do not have learning disabilities. Most (if not all) DVPPs internationally have been developed with a neurotypical perpetrator population which are not necessarily responsive to autistic/ADHD men. This study will address this gap in knowledge and practice by asking expert organisations how they have adapted their programmes to be responsive to these men and/or what could be done to develop future programmes that are suitable for their needs.

The study is in two parts:

* An online survey to map services across the United Kingdom and Australia
* A video/audio recorded interview with an expert organisation representative working within the context outlined above

You can choose to participate in one or both

The study will take place over a 12-month period, though it is anticipated that the interviews and survey will be completed between January and June 2022.

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited because you provide a DVPP service to male perpetrators of domestic abuse or because you are an expert working with autistic men and/or those with ADHD within the context of domestic abuse offending. You will also have made adjustments or developed specific ways of working that are responsive to this perpetrator population or will have suggestions about how DVPPs should be developed to do so.

**Do I have to take part?**

Your participation is voluntary and you do not have to agree to take part. If you do agree to take part, you can withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. Your rights in relation to withdrawing any data that is identifiable to you are explained in the accompanying Privacy Notice.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you agree to take part in the study, you will be asked to participate in one interview which will take around an hour. This will be conducted using phone or video call, whichever you prefer. The interview will be transcribed and anonymised.

If you choose to participate in the survey, you will be asked a series of questions about the services you provide and the area in which you provide them. This is because the purpose of the survey is to map relevant service provision. Because of this, you will be asked to provide both the name and location of your organisation. However, this is an optional question, and you can still choose to take part anonymously. You can also choose for your service to be added to a directory of services to allow appropriate referrals to your service to be made. Consent for survey participation will be at the end of the survey itself.

In all instances, you can choose not to answer specific questions if you wish.

**Are there any potential risks involved?**

The research does involve questions about domestic abuse perpetration which is considered a sensitive topic and may result in discomfort. However, given your professional role, these questions and topic will be familiar to you as part of your day to day practice and it is anticipated that appropriate counselling and/or supervision is already provided by your organisation.

The benefits of the research will be to identify a gap in research and practice and could also be an opportunity for you to showcase the work that you do to inform this.

**Will my data be kept confidential?**

All information obtained during the interviews will be kept confidential. If the data is published it will be entirely anonymous and will not be identifiable as yours.

However, if you complete the survey, name your organisation and location, and give permission for these to be used in publications then this will be publicly available. You may also wish to join a directory of services published on the project website (see below) to enable referrers and people seeking help to find provision in their area. Your explicit consent will be asked at the end of the survey.

Full details are included in the accompanying Privacy Notice.

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

The result of the project will be published in a report. They will also be used to develop policy briefings, academic publications and will be disseminated at public events such as academic conferences and seminars. The reports and other publications will be available on the research project web page <https://nicolerenehan.com/?page_id=213>

All data will be anonymised unless you explicitly ask for the name of your organisation to be made visible through the survey where you have completed this.

Interview data will be archived on the UK Data Service for the purposes of further research, but this will only be done with your explicit consent. Interview data will be anonymised.

All research data and records needed to validate the research findings will be stored for 10 years after publication in line with Durham University’s data management policy. Only data that has received explicit consent for archiving with the UK Data Service will be available after this time.

**Who do I contact if I have any questions or concerns about this study?**

If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please speak to the researcher or their supervisor. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please submit a complaint via the University’s [Complaints Process](https://www.dur.ac.uk/ges/3rdpartycomplaints/).

Thank you for reading this information and considering taking part in this study.