

## Children and Childhood Research Network, University of Liverpool

### Young People's Reference Group

#### Terms of Reference

##### Background

Liverpool University, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Alder Hey Clinical Research Facility and Investing in Children have agreed to work together on a project to explore how children and young people can be more involved in research activities that concern them.

In the past, although children and young people might have been the *objects* of the research, the actual research itself – from, **choosing the subject area, designing the methods, carrying out enquiries, analysing the results, and reporting the results and sometimes even making changes as a consequence** – was something done by adults.

We want to think about how this could be done differently. We believe that children and young people have the right to be seen, not as passive objects, but as active partners in all stages of the research process.

The Researching Children and Childhood Project is interested in exploring as wide a range as possible of topics that impact upon children and young people, from, for example, health, education, welfare, the legal system including immigration, family law and criminal justice, social work, employment, access to play and youth services, the effect of Brexit, etc.

In pursuit of this objective, we have invited children and young people to join a Reference Group, to provide insight and advice at all stages of the research process.

##### Membership of the reference group

The membership of the group consists of four young people from Investing in Children and four young people who are members of GenerationR Liverpool Young Person's Advisory Group funded by the NIHR Alder Hey Clinical Research Facility (CRF), and we are in the process of inviting a further 4 young people from youth organisations in Liverpool. The members are all of secondary school age, but have the potential to reach out to other young

people of different (including primary school) ages. It is our intention to review this, and consider widening the membership of the group at a later stage, when the group is well-established. Our aim is to achieve an equal balance of female/male and sufficient representation in terms of disability, ethnicity, socio-economic background etc.

#### What will the reference group do?

- Identify key research priorities and questions from children's perspective/experiences
- Advise on the design of methodological tools
- Advise on applications for ethical approval
- Advise researchers on how to recruit young people to research appropriately and on how to work with young people as research partners and subjects
- Providing feedback on approaches to analysis, work-in-progress or findings
- Advise on dissemination plans
- Challenge established patterns of thinking and doing.

#### How will the group contribute to gaining ethical approval for research proposals?

- Child-related projects seeking University ethical approval will be considered and endorsed by the YP reference group before submission to the University ethics committee.
- The YP reference group will also assist with addressing any concerns or questions raised by the University ethics committee in relation to any given project.

#### What resources (including support and information) will the group need?

- Accessible space to meet with internet access and sufficient space for up to 15 people.
- Access to background or expert knowledge on specific issues relating to research.
- Budget for paying young people (we have budgeted for £5 per hour up to £20 per session/meeting per person for 2017-18)
- Lunch and refreshments
- Travel costs (we anticipate all young people will travel together by car)
- Administration to support group

#### Schedule of meetings for 2018-2019

- Saturday 23rd June 1-4.30
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September (University of Liverpool)
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January (Alder Hey, Liverpool)
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April (Durham)
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July (Alder Hey, Liverpool)

At each meeting we will devote a good bit of time to consider any research ethics/methods questions that researchers might have. A maximum of 3 projects will be considered at each meeting, with an opportunity for the researcher to meet and discuss their work directly with the young people.