



University
of Exeter

Headteacher Information Sheet

Title of Project: An exploration of the experiences of designated safeguarding leads in fostering the school-based resilience and criminological desistance in young people who offend in mainstream secondary English and Welsh schools.

Ethics Reference number: 11717426

Researcher name: Loz Glautier

Invitation and brief summary:

Thank you for your interest in this project. Please take your time to read this information carefully. Feel free to talk it over with others, including colleagues, or ask the researcher any questions.

This project aims to explore the experiences of school designated safeguarding leads when supporting young people who have committed a criminal offence. It is hoped that this research will provide some insight into current school practice when supporting young people who have offended, the experiences designated safeguarding leads have of fostering the resilience of this group within school and the experience of working with external professionals. This study is the second part of a two-phase study, where the first phase aimed to explore what the literature says about how schools foster resilience in young people who have offended and how they support young people to desist from further offending.

Purpose of the research:

A recent proposal from the Children's Commissioner (2025) has suggested that schools play an important role in supporting young people who have committed a criminal offence. This proposal also linked education and criminal offending. Previous research (Miklosi & Kovacs, 2025) has indicated school factors, such as how connected a young person feels to their school, had a positive impact on young people who had previously committed an offence. Other research (Ayano et al., 2024), has suggested that schools can have a positive and a negative effect on offending behaviour in young people. This suggests that schools can have an impact on whether young people go on to commit further offences.

In general, research into this topic has been broad and has not explored the influence or impact of school in much depth. When research has looked at the experiences of professionals working to support young people who have offended, this has largely been the experiences of Youth Justice Workers or other, non-school based professionals. There is a lack of research around professionals working in schools to support this group of young people, despite evidence that schools can help divert young people away from offending. This research aims to look at the experiences of designated safeguarding leads in schools to gain a greater understanding of the perspectives of school-based professionals. This research is interested in organisational policies, procedures and supports, it is not interested in individual cases, children or families.

The themes which will be covered in the interviews are:

- How designated safeguarding leads perceive their role.
- How much experience they have working with young people who have offended and this group's typical engagement with education.

- Their experiences of school policy/practice when supporting young people who have offended
- What they consider would support desistance and educational resilience in young people who have offended.
- Their experiences working with external agencies/professionals to support young people who have offended.

Why have I been approached?

You have been approached because you are the headteacher of a mainstream secondary school in England or Wales.

What will this study involve?

This study will involve a 90-minute, online interview with designate safeguarding leads at your school. This will be done at a time that is convenient for the school and the safeguarding lead. The 90-minutes will include a 60-minute audio recorded interview, with 15 minutes either side to check consent, have any questions answered and to have a debrief afterwards. Should it be required, participants will be sign posted to wellbeing resources. Recordings and transcriptions will be saved under pseudonyms, and all transcripts will be pseudonymised where identifiable details from transcripts will be removed. Once these details have been removed, audio recordings will be permanently deleted.

Overall, this research aims to interview ten designated safeguarding leads from a range of mainstream state secondary schools in England or Wales. These interviews will then be used to explore themes around the experience of fostering resilience in young people who offend in mainstream state secondary schools.

What are the possible benefits of your school taking part?

It is hoped that this research will lead to a greater understanding of the experiences designated safeguarding leads and schools have when working with young people who have offended. It is also hoped that this research can contribute to a wider understanding of how schools foster resilience in this group of young people as well as any potential barriers schools face. This could be used to further the understanding of external professionals working with schools and young people who offend around the school context. This research may also support the development of guidance for schools when working to support young people who offend. Finally, you will be provided with a summary of the results when they have been analysed.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

The potential risk for designated safeguarding leads taking part in this study is the emotional discomfort of potentially recounting difficult experiences. Although the interview questions will focus of general experiences and school policies, rather than individual cases, there is still the chance this could be uncomfortable. Should there be any discomfort during the interview, the lead researcher (Laura Glautier) will be available for support in the debrief and will be able to sign post participants to relevant support resources. If discomfort arises during the interview, participants will be reminded that participation is completely voluntary and they can pause or stop the interview whenever they like. Additionally, participants have the right to refuse any questions during the interview. They will be reminded of this at the start and during the study if they feel any discomfort during the process. Participant wellbeing will be monitored by the lead researcher throughout the interview.

Below are some support agencies which can support participants if they feel impacted by anything which arose during the interviews. These support agencies, and others can be found at <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/seeking-help-for-a-mental-health-problem/mental-health-helplines/>.

- Samaritans. Samaritans is there for anyone who wants to talk about anything upsetting. You can contact [Samaritans](#) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call [116 123](#) (free from any phone). Call the Samaritans Welsh Language Line on [0808 164 0123](#) (7pm–11pm every day) Email jo@samaritans.org (Email responses may take several days. This service will close from 26 April 2026).
- SHOUT. If you would **prefer not to talk** but want some mental health support, you could text SHOUT to [85258](#). [Shout](#) offers a confidential 24/7 text service providing support if you are in crisis and need immediate help.
- C.A.L.L. If you live in **Wales**, you can call [the Community Advice and Listening Line \(C.A.L.L.\)](#) on [0800 132 737](#) (open 24/7) or email call@helpline.wales.

Does your school have to take part?

No. Participation is entirely voluntary. If you do decide you would like your school to take part, you may withdraw at any point for any reason by indicating to the lead researcher that you no longer wish for your school to take part and the lead researcher will cancel any interviews (if there are any scheduled) which have not yet taken place. It will then be checked whether you wish for a full withdrawal, where any data collected from your school will be deleted, or a partial withdrawal where no new data will be collected, but previously collected data will be retained and used in the research.

What will happen if participants don't want to carry on with the study?

Designated safeguarding leads will be able to stop taking part in this study at any point and they will not need to give any reason. Participants will also be able to pause the interview at any point without giving a reason. If participants wish to withdraw during the interview, the audio recording and transcription will be deleted there and then. Additionally, they can ask for their data to be deleted at any point after the interview has taken place by emailing the lead researcher.

If participants ask for their data to be removed before it has been pseudonymised, all their data will be deleted and not included in the analysis. It will not be possible to delete participant data after it has been pseudonymised as identifiable details will have been removed. It will also not be possible to delete participant data after the data analysis or after the report has been written.

If participants wish to withdraw, they can choose to fully or partially withdraw. In the case of a full withdrawal, all their data (audio recording, interview transcript and consent form) will be permanently deleted. If they wish to partially withdraw, some of their data will be deleted from the audio recording and interview transcript and will not be included in the data analysis. For a partial withdrawal, the transcript will be checked with them to ensure that all the data you wish to have been removed has been.

Headteachers will not be informed who or how many designated safeguarding leads from their school have volunteered to take part to protect the anonymity of participants.

How will the data be used?

The data we will collect that could identify participants will be an audio recording and an interview transcription.

Their IP address will not be stored. We will take all reasonable measures to ensure that data remain confidential, including the use of pseudonyms for personally identifiable information, such as names. All identifiable details will be removed and replaced with pseudonyms so that participants cannot be identified.

The responses participants provide will be stored in a password-protected electronic file and may be used in academic publications. Identifiable information, such as audio recordings, will be deleted as soon as it is no longer required for the research. Research data (including consent records) will be stored for one year after publication or public release.

Participant data will be collated with data from other participants and used to explore general practice in schools.

Who will have access to the data?

The University of Exeter is the data controller with respect to personal data, and as such will determine how personal data is used in the study. The University will process personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that we perform in the public interest. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/ig/gdpr/>

The data participants provide will only be accessed by the lead researcher and their supervisors.

This project will be written up for a Doctorate in Educational Psychology degree.

How will information be kept confidential?

The University of Exeter uses personal data to carry out research that benefits the public. The University will endeavour to be transparent about its processing of personal data and this information sheet should provide a clear explanation of this. If you have questions about the University's processing of personal data, you can contact the University's Data Protection Officer at:

 informationgovernance@exeter.ac.uk

 www.exeter.ac.uk/ig

All data provided will be treated as confidential. All data which has not yet been anonymised, will be initially labelled using a pseudonym until anonymisation can take place. All data will be securely stored on SharePoint, which only the lead research and their supervisors can access. Data will be stored in password protected folders and data which has not yet been anonymised will be stored separately to anonymised data. Additionally, all files will be encrypted. After the completion of the thesis, all data will be permanently destroyed in line with GDPR guidance. Data from interviews will be reported using pseudonym names.

After the transcription of interview audio recordings, these will be permanently deleted. Any identifiable details (such as any school names) within the transcript will be removed and the transcript will be pseudonymised to ensure data is not identifiable.

Limit of Confidentiality

All data gathered will be treated as confidential. However, although it is considered unlikely, in the event of a safeguarding disclosure, where there is a risk of harm or safeguarding concern around a young person or situation, the lead researcher will be required to break confidentiality and follow the safeguarding reporting procedures of your school. If there is a risk of immediate harm to a young person, participants may be informed after the disclosure has been reported to the relevant bodies.

Will this information be used again for more research?

Participant information will only be used for this project. It will not be used again for any other research and will be deleted 1 year after the completion of the research (August 2028).

Will there be any payment for taking part?

There will be no financial compensation for taking part.

What will happen to the results of this study?

The results of this study will form one phase of a doctoral thesis for a Doctorate in Educational Psychology. This thesis will be published on the University of Exeter's Open Repository of research found at <https://ore.exeter.ac.uk/>

After the analysis of the results, a summary of key findings will also be provided to participants, should they wish to receive it, and to Somerset Youth Justice service who supported with the identification of this research topic. There is also the possibility that this research will later be published in a relevant academic journal.

If you would like to receive a summary of the findings of this research, please let the lead researcher know by email.

Who is organising and funding this study?

The sponsor for this study is the University of Exeter. This study is being conducted as part of a Doctorate in Educational Psychology.

Who has reviewed this study?

This project has been reviewed by the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) Research Ethics Committee (REC) at the University of Exeter. A copy of the letter providing a final favourable opinion from the HASS REC can be provided. It has also been reviewed by the lead researcher's supervisors, Shirley Larkin and Natasha Ellis.

Who do I contact if I have a concern or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to Laura Glautier at lg732@exeter.ac.uk or their supervisor Shirley Larkin at S.Larkin@exeter.ac.uk or Natasha Ellis at N.Ellis4@exeter.ac.uk, and we will do our best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chairs of the FHASS REC who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible by emailing fhass-ethics@exeter.ac.uk, or alternatively the University of Exeter Research Ethics & Governance Office cgr-reg@exeter.ac.uk

Contact for any questions or request regarding your participation in this research

In the event of queries or requests you may contact me using the following contact information.

Please email lg732@exeter.ac.uk

My supervisors' emails are S.Larkin@exeter.ac.uk and N.Ellis4@exeter.ac.uk

To contact the HASS Research Ethics Committee
please email fhass-ethics@exeter.ac.uk

You can also contact the University Research Ethics and Governance Team
please email cgr-reg@exeter.ac.uk,

or

The Head of Research Ethics, Governance and Compliance
Room 202, The Innovation Centre, University of Exeter,
Rennes Drive, Exeter EX4 4RN

Thank you for your interest in this project