

Project Mirabal

Information Sheet for Women

In-depth interviews

You may have already been asked, or agreed to, doing the five follow-up telephone interviews with researchers but your support worker might have mentioned that you can also take part in a further two in-depth interviews. Here is some more information about what the in-depth interview involves so you can decide whether you would like to take part.

Please refer to the attached sheet for further information on the project and the telephone interviews.

In-depth interviews:

If you decide to take part in the in-depth interviews, we will ask you to sign a consent form and you will be interviewed on two separate occasions. The first interview would be carried out close to your partner or ex-partner starting contact with the programme. The second interview would be carried out close to the end of your partners or ex-partner's involvement with the programme. Each interview is expected to last around an hour and a half and will be carried out by one of our researchers. This discussion will be audio-recorded. We will ensure that the discussion takes place at a time and place convenient to you. All in-depth interviews will be done face to face in a private room either within the women's support service or in a suitable place nearby. They can be organised to fit in before or after you normally attend the women's support service. Alternatively you can ask to be interviewed by phone if that is better for you.

One section of the in-depth interview asks you to talk about 4 - 6 situations that have happened to you in your own words. All these examples should draw on your relationship with the partner or ex-partner who attends (or has attended) the men's programme. The researcher will ask you to talk about things such as; a time when you and your partner or ex-partner disagreed with each other when you were making a decision about something; a time when he used or threatened to use violence against you and how his violence or abuse has affected you and other people.

The researcher will ask you to describe what happened before, during and after the incident and consider what was said, what was done, how you felt, what you were thinking and how safe you felt. The researcher can help you to think of good examples of situations but it may be useful to think of the most important examples in advance. Feel free to bring notes to help you with this if you wish.

The rest of the interview allows you to discuss your experiences of the support you have had so far, including whether you think that your relationship, children, you, and your partner or ex-partner have changed.

What will happen to the audio-recording of the conversation?

Only the research team (including researchers, administrators and transcribers) will have access to, and be able to listen to, the audio-recording of the discussion. A member of the research team will write up what has been said into a transcript and only the researchers will have access to this. All information will be kept on secure, password-protected computers and in locked filing cabinets in locked offices at Durham University. You can have a copy of the transcript. The audio-recording will be destroyed at the end of the research project. The identity of participants will remain confidential.

What are the possible benefits of taking part in this research?

Domestic violence support services are experiencing a difficult economic climate and there is a need for more evidence about what works. By taking part in this research you will help services improve and help other women who have or will experience what you have been through.

In addition you will receive some high street vouchers after completing each in-depth interview.

If I want to take part what should I do next?

If you are interested in taking part in the two in-depth interviews you can either:

1. Give permission to your women's support worker to give us your phone number and we will call you to arrange an interview, or
2. Phone the researchers directly on the numbers below to arrange an interview.

If you have any questions about the research or require further information about the research project please contact the researchers. The phone numbers for the Durham University research team are:

Julia – 07530 575539

Richard – 07527 605616