**RESEARCH BRIEF**

**Child sexual exploitation and abuse within sport and Physical Education**

Sexual exploitation and abuse within sport and Physical Education contexts has received some attention over the past decade, however, research has not yet explored child sexual abuse with those men who were sexually victimised in a sport and/or PE setting.

The purpose of this research project is to investigate this issue through the stories of men who were subjected to sexual activity as a child/young person by an adult and/or someone in a position of trust within a sports or PE setting. This also includes unwanted sexual activity with peers/other young people.

Sexual activity includes contact and non-contact behaviours. For example, kissing, sexual touching or oral sex (contact) as well as watching pornographic material, ‘sexting’ or sexually explicit talk (non-contact).

Please consider if one or more of the following statements might apply to you:

* I was subjected to / I engaged in sexual activity with an adult or someone who was in a position of trust over me (including other young people) within a sports/PE context before the age of 18
* I was subjected to unwanted sexual activity by a peer(s) within a sport or PE context before the age of 18
* I was sexually assaulted within a sport or PE context

If you are interested in participating in this research by sharing your story, please contact the project lead, Dr Mike Hartillto discuss furtherat[SportResearch@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:SportResearch@edgehill.ac.uk) (01695 584763 / 4212).All communication will be strictly confidential and if you decide to take part, your identity will be protected.

**For more information on Mike, please see:** <http://www.eshare.edgehill.ac.uk/profile/743>ortake a look at this short animation about his research: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WWl38R6LU4>

Thanks and best wishes

Mike

Department of Sport & Physical Activity <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/sport/>

Edge Hill University

INFORMATION SHEET & CONSENT FORM

The title of this project is:

**Childhood sexual exploitation and abuse in sport & PE**

This project is led by **Dr Mike Hartill**

Further info: <https://edgehill.academia.edu/MikeHartill>

Department of Sport & Physical Activity

Edge Hill University

Tel: 01695 584763 Email: [hartillm@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:hartillm@edgehill.ac.uk)

**Approval for this project has been granted by:**

The Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Edge Hill University.

**For further information, please contact:**

Prof. Kevern Verney

Associate Dean

Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS)

FAS Research Ethics Committee (Chair)

The project is endorsed by **Survivors Manchester**

See: <http://www.survivorsmanchester.org.uk/breaking-the-silence/sexual-abuse-sport/>

**Detailed Project Information:**

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. This is obviously a sensitive piece of research and I hope I have already answered any queries or concerns you may have. The information included here is intended to be a recap and written record of our previous discussion(s). However, please read all the information carefully and take further time to consider your participation in this project. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign this form.

As already discussed, you do not have to take part but if you do your participation will be confidential and known only to myself. Your identity will not be shared with any facilitating third party. Your identity will be safeguarded in any published material that may result from the research and all identifying information will be removed or altered.

If you decide that you do not want to participate, there will be no disadvantage to you nor will you be asked to explain your decision.

**What are the aims of the project?**

The main aims of the project are to develop understanding about:

1. the nature of child sexual abuse in sport;
2. the impact of sexual abuse on those who experience abuse in sport;
3. the contexts in which abuse takes place.

# **Summary of Procedure**

If you consent to take part, you will be asked to participate in an interview(s) with myself. The interview(s) will be audio-recorded and then transcribed. The topic of these interviews will be your life history, particularly your childhood experiences of sexual abuse within sport/PE.

You can change your mind and decide not to take part at any time during the interview. If you decide to stop, you do not have to give any reasons for your decision, and you will not be placed at any disadvantage whatsoever. You can also withdraw any and all data up to 4 weeks after the final interview date.

The amount of time spent on this is entirely up to you, however, I would anticipate **at least** one interview of approximately **2-3 hours**. We will break periodically and whenever you wish. The time and location of the interviews is entirely up to you, although a quiet/discreet location is preferable, and I would expect to travel to meet you. Clearly this is a highly emotive issue. To safeguard your well-being as much as possible, Duncan Craig at Survivors Manchester has agreed to provide therapeutic support to participants where required.

There are no direct rewards from participating in this study, however, by taking part, it is anticipated that you will help to increase knowledge of an issue that is often hidden and is also under-researched. It is intended that this knowledge be used to help develop understanding of this issue, to inform policy and ultimately to help prevent children from suffering abuse in the future.

The audio recording and interview transcript will be stored on a password protected Edge Hill computer, lap-top and a USB stick stored in a locked draw at Edge Hill University. You will be assigned a pseudonym and your identity will only be known by Dr Hartill.

Any identifying information will be removed from the transcripts and these will be coded and stored separately from the coding system/key. Your identity will be known only to myself. If you have been referred by a third party, it is entirely your discretion to inform them whether you have participated in the research.

The transcript will be sent to you and you will be free to add further detail or further clarification. There will be a ‘cooling-off’ period of 4 weeks after the final interview when you can withdraw from the project. The final anonymised transcript may be available to other researchers in the future under a carefully controlled and restricted process managed by Edge Hill University and according to best practice in research ethics.

Extracts from this transcript may be used within research publications, such as journal articles, reports or books and these may be accessible via the internet.

Transcripts, and any and all resulting publications, will be thoroughly anonymised, including the identity of people you refer to and place names, etc. **However**, **if specific evidence is given that may be used to prevent harm to a child, I will be bound by the terms of this agreement to ensure this information is reported to the appropriate authorities**. It is, then, entirely your choice to provide such evidence. If you did, I would encourage you to officially disclose this type of information. If you did not wish to do so, I would pass on the relevant detail but your identity would not be disclosed. However, it is important to note that research data given in confidence do not enjoy legal privilege and may be liable to subpoena by a court. If subpoenaed I would be bound to disclose your identity.

**What information will be collected, and how will it be used?**

While not exhaustive, the points below illustrate the sorts of topics/areas we might discuss:

* family background and general childhood experiences;
* what sport(s) you were involved in;
* the perpetrator(s) and their relationship to you;
* how the sexual activity/abuse began and what it entailed;
* how you dealt with it;
* how it affected you and those around you;
* whether you told anyone;
* whether you received any professional help;
* how you reflect upon it now.

### **Risks and Benefits**

There is the possibility that you may experience distress through your involvement in this research and you should consider this carefully before proceeding to the interview stage. We have discussed available sources of professional support as well as your feelings towards participating in this study and how it might impact upon you and how you might deal with this.

**Agreement and** **Consent**

I have read this form and I consent to participate in this research study on the basis that:

1. My participation is voluntary and without material benefit to me
2. I know I can stop taking part at any time without being disadvantaged
3. There will be a ‘cooling-off’ period of 4 weeks after the final interview during which time I can withdraw my participation and any interview data provided
4. I understand that any information disclosed by me that could reasonably be used to prevent the abuse of a child will be passed on to the relevant authorities
5. I understand that research data given in confidence do not enjoy legal privilege and may be liable to subpoena by a court
6. I have been informed of the arrangements for storage of my interview data, I am satisfied with those arrangements, and I participate on the understanding that these arrangements will be followed exactly
7. The research may be published, but it will not be linked to me
8. I will be given a transcript of my interview(s)
9. I have the right to remove any and all of my data from the study prior to publication
10. I have been able to discuss the possible risks involved
11. I have been provided with contact details for sources of professional support
12. I agree to inform the researcher if I feel unduly distressed or wish to stop or take a break
13. I have had the opportunity to ask questions

**Participant**

Signature: Date:

**Researcher**

Name: Mike Hartill

Signature: Date: