



## How children were involved in the development of this project

To enable children in this project to contribute ideas based on their experience of gender based violence, without causing them to retell their own painful stories, the stories were developed in small groups around a shared imaginary person.

The young people had complete control over the imaginary person's life with the proviso that the person had some experience of gender based harm either personally or in their home.

The imaginary person was drawn in a consequence game style, with each participant drawing different sections of the person, hiding it and passing on for the next section. This way the imaginary person revealed did not belong to any individual, it was a person of shared origin whose story was to be told.

Participants then made a large circle out of art materials and the imaginary person was placed in the centre. Inside the circle represented the person's family, outside the circle, the community. Young people agreed a name and age for their imaginary person.

Young people were offered different shapes or colours of stickers for each question to make sure in data analysis which question comments were in response to.

For personal growth and development young people were asked to consider the imaginary person's personality 'I am...', their abilities 'I can...' and their feelings 'I feel...'.

For the 'people who love and care for me' and 'my wider world', participants were asked to describe what is helpful, is not helpful and what might be helpful.

Participants then were asked to consider if the right help were offered, what change would there be for the person, their family and their communities. This provides an idea of what children perceive would be improved outcomes and what the indicators would be that these outcomes were being achieved.

Through this approach children and young people were able to bring their expertise, gained through personal experience, to answer the questions about what is, is not or could be helpful to children/young people experiencing gender based violence, but without the need to speak about their own confidential and potentially painful stories.