

If you inject drugs and are between the ages of 16 and 23:

“Injecting drug use among legal minors and the best interests of the child”

We would like to ask if you wish to participate in the above research project. This document provides information about the project and what participation involves.

What kind of project is it and why do you want me to participate?

Some people begin injecting drugs before they turn 18, when they are still ‘children’ (legally speaking). In Sweden we know very little about these young people’s everyday lives and life situations. Help and support services that exist are often designed for older adults, and it is not certain that the advice given is appropriate for younger people’s needs and wishes. For example, under 18s cannot use needle exchange services.

So, in this project we want to speak to young people who started injecting drugs before they turned 18 to find out more about their experiences and wishes relating to support and care. The aim of this project is to better understand the situation for young people who inject drugs and to possibly see how this could be improved.

You are receiving this information because you have expressed interest to participate. The University of Gothenburg is responsible for carrying out the research.

How does the study work?

We want to interview you on one occasion, at a time that suits you, either at the needle exchange or by phone or Zoom video call. Even if the interview takes place at the needle exchange it is important for you to know that the project is completely independent from that service. The interview will take place privately, only you and one researcher, and will take about one hour. The questions we will ask during the interview will focus on your life situation and your experiences of support and care. Questions will cover are, for example: When did you start injecting? Can you tell us about the first time, how/where did it take place? What do you think about the services for young people under 18 who inject drugs? The interview will be recorded on a dictaphone and transcribed. No unauthorised persons will have access to either the recording or the transcription.

Possible consequences and risks associated with participating in the study

There are no immediate negative or positive consequences of deciding to participate in the study. The hope is that thanks to this study we will acquire a better understanding of young people who inject drugs. In the longer term, it is hoped that what we learn may contribute to improving support and care services in this field.

During the interview we will speak about your experiences with injecting drugs. It may stir up difficult feelings or memories, both during and after the interview. We want to stress that you should only provide information that you want to share and feel comfortable with. We will be

careful around sensitive issues for you to talk about and will not press you to talk about things you would rather not discuss. If after the interview you wish to speak to someone about the issues or feelings that came up, you can turn to Rickard Larsson, Behandlingsgruppen för Drogproblem. You can contact him via email rickard.larsson@socialcentrum.goteborg.se, or by phone at 031-367 93 16. You can write in the email whether you wish to be called. It's a good idea to let the Rickard know that you are calling with regard to the study.

What will happen with the data I provide?

The project will collect and register information about you. We will ask about your drug use, your experiences with care and treatment, and some other sensitive information. You can choose to use a pseudonym, if you don't want to provide your real name. The information you give will be kept in a secured system, in accordance with the University of Gothenburg's regulations governing data protection and storage. The University of Gothenburg will be responsible for the data. The University's personal information ombudsman is Kristina Ullgren. She can be reached at 031 786 1092 or at Kristina.Ullgren@gu.se.

According to the EU Data Protection Regulation you have the right to access the information about you that is handled in the study free of charge, and have any errors corrected if needed. You can also request that information about you be deleted and that the processing of your personal data be restricted. If you want to access the information, you can contact the responsible researcher Damon Barrett (see contact information below). The University of Gothenburg has a data protection representative who you can also reach at dataskydd@gu.se 031 786 00 00. If you are dissatisfied with how your personal data is processed, you have the right to submit a complaint to the Data Inspectorate, which is the supervisory authority.

How will I be informed about the results of the study?

The results of the study will be published in scientific research papers. If you wish, we can contact you when the results are being published. You can let us know that you want to see the final results at the time of your interview or by emailing the main researcher whenever you wish after the interview has taken place.

Participation is voluntary

Your participation is completely voluntary. You can say no to participating in this study without having to provide any reason. If you choose to participate, you can interrupt or end your interview at any time, without saying why. You can also choose to not answer certain questions. Your participation is strictly between you and the researchers and will not in any way affect your contact with the needle exchange or other service. None of what you say will be passed to healthcare or other staff. If you want to cancel your participation you can contact the researcher responsible for the study.

Damon Barrett is the **lead researcher**. You can contact him by phone/SMS at 070 229 3922 or by email at damon.barrett@gu.se