

# Marie Collins Foundation Lived Experience Group Evaluation

Final report  
October 2025



Marie Collins  
Foundation  
Supporting recovery from  
technology-assisted child  
sexual abuse



<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Marie Collins Foundation Lived Experience Group Evaluation - Interim report</b>
<b>Revision Number</b>	0.3 Final
<b>Date</b>	Oct 2025
<b>Author</b>	Emma Harewood, Harewood Consultancy

<b>1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT .....</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1 INTRODUCTION .....	1
2.2 LEG PURPOSE AND WORK TO DATE .....	1
2.3 LEG THEORY OF CHANGE.....	2
2.4 LEG STRATEGY .....	2
<b>3. ABOUT THE EVALUATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 EVALUATION OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH .....	3
3.2 DATA MAPPING, COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS.....	3
<b>4. FINDINGS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1 GETTING STARTED IN LEG .....	5
4.2 SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE LEG.....	8
4.3 SHAPED BY SURVIVORS .....	11
4.4 IMPACT OF LEG ON GROUP MEMBERS.....	13
4.5 IMPACT ON MCF INTERNALLY .....	16
4.6 IMPACT ON THE WIDER SYSTEM .....	19
<b>5. CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>25</b>
5.1 WHAT'S GOING WELL .....	26
5.2 WHAT COULD BE BETTER.....	27
5.3 CREATING A FRAMEWORK FOR ENGAGING ADULTS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF TACSA .....	27
<b>6. RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>28</b>

## 1. Executive summary

The evaluation report explored the progress and impact of the Marie Collins Foundation's Lived Experience Group (LEG), established in 2023 with Oak Foundation funding to ensure that the voices of survivors of Technology-Assisted Child Sexual Abuse (TACSA) are at the centre of advocacy, policy, training and practice. The evaluation was commissioned to assess how well MCF has supported the LEG to develop, what difference the group is making to its members, and the extent of its influence within MCF and across the wider system.

A mixed-methods approach was taken, combining desk-based review of strategies, policies, resources and project outputs; in-depth conversations with LEG members (current, former and leaders); and a series of focus groups with MCF staff, trustees, academics, policy makers and frontline professionals. This enabled triangulation of findings across multiple perspectives, ensuring the evaluation reflected both the lived experience of group members and the perceptions of external stakeholders who have engaged with the LEG.

### Safe and Supportive Group

The evaluation found that MCF has placed the wellbeing and safety of group members at the centre of the LEG. Policies and processes for recruitment, induction, and ongoing support are robust, with safeguarding and therapeutic care hardwired into practice. Members spoke about the sense of trust and emotional safety in meetings, describing the group as balanced and non-hierarchical. Leaders, themselves survivors, are recognised for setting consistent boundaries and providing choice in participation. Wellbeing is supported through a package of offers, from regular check-ins to wellbeing days, alongside preparation and debriefing for project work. This created an environment where members felt protected, respected, and able to contribute at their own pace.

*"I never feel unsafe in any of the meetings. It's a space where every voice matters."* – LEG Member

### Shaped by survivors

The evaluation found that the work of LEG and MCF is genuinely shaped by survivors. Members shape the group's direction through quarterly reviews, annual strategy days, and project-level decision-making. Priorities raised by survivors have already generated new strands of work, from resources on relationships and sexuality to input into national sentencing reviews. Members have the autonomy to decide which projects to engage with, and their contributions shape the development of MCF resources, campaigns, and training. External partners observed that survivor perspectives have directly changed the design and content of their own work, highlighting the influence of the group beyond MCF itself.

*"I spoke in the House of Lords. It was the highlight of my life... it's the stories that people remember."* – LEG member

### Impact on Members

Participation in LEG has had a significant impact on members, both personally and collectively. Survivors reported increased confidence, new skills, and a sense of purpose in transforming painful experiences into meaningful advocacy. Members described the pride

and empowerment of speaking in Parliament, contributing to national media campaigns, or seeing resources they helped design being used by professionals. The group has also created a valued sense of community and belonging, providing a peer network of support and shared understanding. While members acknowledged the challenges of revisiting trauma, the balance of support, choice, and collective encouragement has enabled the benefits to outweigh the difficulties.

*“Being part of the LEG has allowed me to take what has happened to me and transform it into something purposeful, rather than letting it define me.”* – LEG Member

*“I never realised the value of how your own experience can be redirected into something positive and powerful.”* – LEG Member

### Impact on MCF

The LEG has become central to the way MCF works. Survivor voices are now embedded across the organisation’s strategy, training and resources, and MCF staff routinely consult the LEG as partners in co-design. The group has helped shape core training packages, created a toolkit of survivor quotes for staff use, and informed organisational policy and practice. The approach has established MCF as a sector leader in survivor engagement, with external agencies such as Ofcom and the Home Office approaching MCF for advice on establishing their own lived experience groups. The evaluation also identified opportunities to deepen engagement, such as involving LEG members in staff recruitment and ensuring the Board has greater visibility of the group’s impact.

*“Now we have the views of the lived experience group right from the beginning – it’s not a bolt-on anymore, it’s part of the system.”* – MCF Senior Team

### Impact on the Wider System

The LEG has had a growing impact across the wider system. Their input has shaped frontline police practice through the ASCEND resources, which are now embedded in Metropolitan Police Service policy. National campaigns such as Hydrant’s *When You Are Ready* have benefited from their insights, while their contributions to government consultations have influenced changes in law and policy, including reforms to the Limitation Law. The group has also reshaped the way researchers design and frame studies, ensuring survivor voices are embedded ethically and meaningfully. In addition, LEG members are shifting wider societal understanding through their involvement in media responses and the co-creation of journalist guidance. These examples show the LEG is achieving influence across professional, policy, academic, and public domains.

*“Everything they told us was incorporated into the project – and it changed the way we now train officers.”* – Frontline Justice Professional

### Conclusion

The evaluation found that the MCF LEG has quickly established itself as a model of best practice in survivor engagement. It provides a safe and supportive environment for members, is demonstrably survivor-led, and is achieving meaningful outcomes for individuals, MCF, and the wider system. The work is already influencing frontline practice,

national policy, media narratives, and research methodologies. At the same time, there are opportunities to build further – broadening representation, embedding the voices of younger survivors, ensuring systematic feedback from external partners, and securing sustainable funding. These next steps provide a clear pathway for strengthening the impact and sustainability of the LEG.

#### **Recommendations**

- 1. Create a 'Framework of Best Practice for Lived Experience Groups'.**
- 2. Establish a formalised agreement for external organisations consulting with LEG including a requirement to provide debrief session, feedback on final resource/policy and an impact report.**
- 3. Identify a long-term funding solution for LEG, which could include charging external organisations to consult with LEG and/or income generation through training in the 'Framework of Best Practice for Lived Experience Groups'.**
- 4. Consider ways to ensure that young people's voices with current experiences of TACSA are heard in the LEG, either through the establishment of a young person's LEG or a mechanism to capture the voices of young people to feed into LEG.**
- 5. Create a suite of measurable outcomes for each project to report to the LEG, the Board, and external stakeholders.**

## 2. Background and context

### 2.1 Introduction

The Marie Collins Foundation (MCF) are a charity that focus on responding to and preventing victimisation through technology-assisted Child Sexual Abuse (TACSA). In 2023, MCF received Oak Foundation funding to establish a Lived Experience Group (LEG), to build their capacity and to develop a robust advocacy strategy.

TACSA is child sexual abuse which is enabled in any way by technology. This can be phones, gaming consoles, cameras, tablets and/or computers. The abuse includes children and young people: being coerced into taking intimate images which are then shared, being encouraged to perform for live streaming, being groomed for further online or contact abuse, having their image used to blackmail them for more images or money. Technology assists child sexual abuse by increasing access to victims and creating a false sense of safety, thereby lowering inhibitions. The number of images and videos on the internet of the sexual abuse of children continues to increase, with the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) assessing over 700,000 images online in 2024. Working together to prevent and respond to TACSA is a key priority, as TACSA increases year on year. The voices of people with lived experience of child sexual abuse play an important role in understanding how to respond to and prevent this form of abuse.

Funding from the Oak Foundation (2023-2025) enabled MCF to establish a Lived Experience Group (LEG), build their capacity and develop a robust advocacy strategy. The ambition of MCF is to enable and support the LEG to undertake their advocacy role safely and to ensure that they are therapeutically supported throughout. This allows the LEG to confidently influence the wider system of frontline professionals, academics, policy makers and industry in creative ways. MCF hope to grow their LEG membership and to continue to ensure that it is survivor lead, including by its members and leaders. MCF aspire to ensure all their work is guided by individuals with experience of TACSA. The purpose of this evaluation was to understand how well MCF are doing this now and how they can improve in the future.

### 2.2 LEG purpose and work to date

In 2021 a small group of survivors were advocating with MCF, and by 2023 the LEG was established in its current format. The group is currently made up of a network of 10 adult victims and survivors of child sexual abuse who want to use their experiences to improve outcomes for the victims and survivors of yesterday and the victims of today. Members of the group have a wide range of different experiences including technology-assisted abuse, familial abuse, trafficking, image-based abuse, and child sexual exploitation. The group's collective and diverse expertise are vital to the work of MCF, and their insights guide MCF as they advocate for change at a local, national and international level.

The LEG is survivor led and is co-ordinated by two members of MCF staff, who themselves have lived experience. The group co-produced their Strategy (see section 2.4) after coming together to reflect on their experiences, both positive and negative, to highlight the areas most in need of reform. These discussions formed the basis and direction for their work over the 2024/25 period.

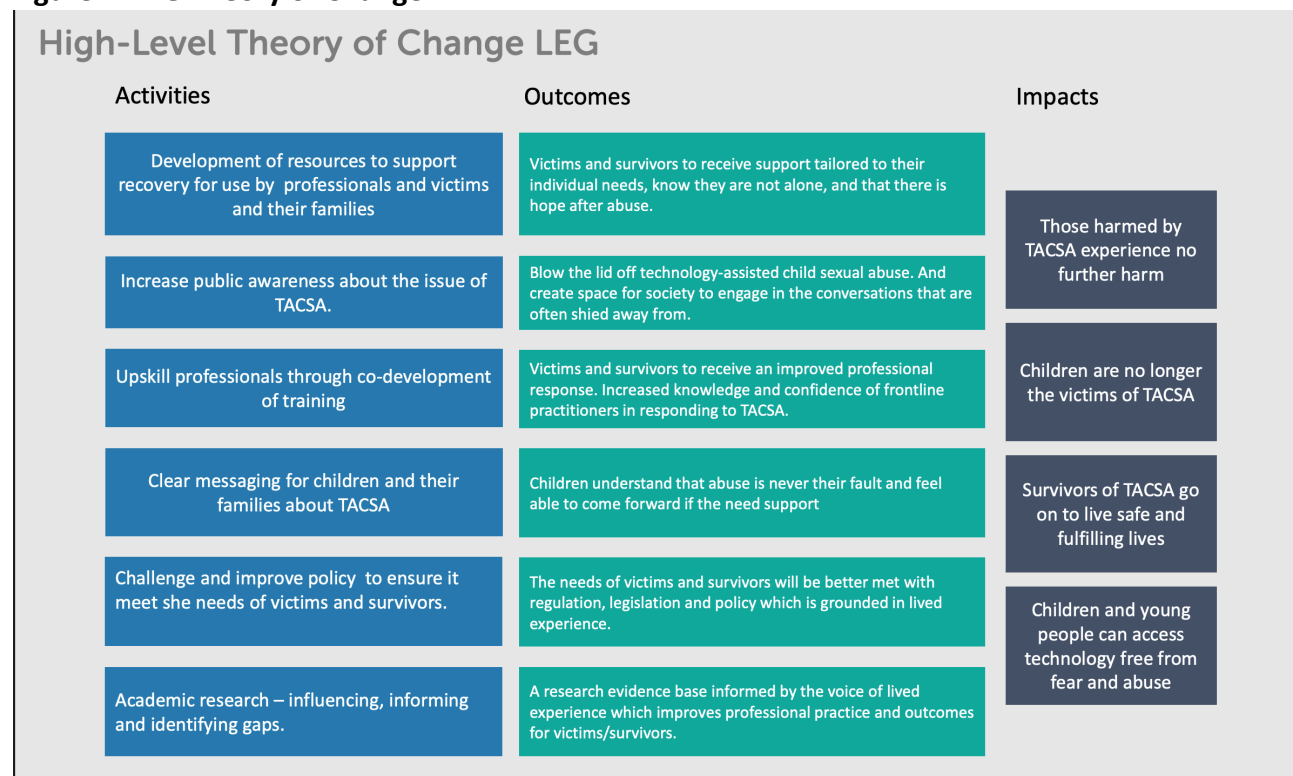


The aim of the LEG is to influence the wider system of frontline professionals, academics, policy makers and industry; ensuring it is survivor lead, particularly by individuals with experience of TACSA. MCF are committed to enabling the members of the LEG to undertake their advocacy role safely; ensuring that they are therapeutically supported throughout; and to grow the membership. Further information is available on the Marie Collins Foundation Website on the [Lived Experience Group pages](#).

## 2.3 LEG Theory of Change

The Theory of Change in Figure 1 details the activities, outcomes and expected impact of the LEG.

**Figure 1: LEG Theory of Change**



## 2.4 LEG Strategy

The Marie Collins Foundation’s Lived Experience Group Advocacy Strategy focuses on supporting and empowering victims and survivors of Technology-Assisted Child Sexual Abuse while ensuring professional responses cause no further harm. The strategy envisions that all TACSA victims receive high-quality, trauma-informed support throughout their recovery. To achieve this, the LEG Strategy focuses on six themes: Support, Awareness Raising, Training, Education, Policy Change, and Research. They aim to break the silence around TACSA, create survivor-informed resources, empower children and families, improve professional practice, influence legislation, and shape meaningful research.

Through this strategy, LEG aims to contribute to awareness campaigns, co-produce training and educational materials grounded in lived experience, shape policy development, and ensure research practices are safe and reflective of survivors’ realities.



### 3. About the evaluation

#### 3.1 Evaluation Objectives and Approach

The evaluation sought to measure the effectiveness of MCF support to enable the LEG to be advocates for change; the impact of the LEG on its members, both personally and collectively; and the outcomes within MCF and the wider system because of the LEG. MCF provided key evaluation questions which formed the basis of the co-created Key Lines of Enquiry:

**EQ1. To what extent is the LEG being delivered in a way that is safe and supportive for LEG group members?**

**EQ2. To what extent do LEG members feel that the groups work can be shaped by yourselves? (MCF call this “survivor-led”)**

**EQ3. What impact, positive and/or negative, has participating in the LEG had on group members?**

**EQ4. What role has the LEG played in shaping MCF’s activities, and what specific changes or impacts have resulted from its involvement?**

**EQ5. What impact has the LEG had on the wider system?**

#### 3.2 Data mapping, collection and analysis

We took a mixed methods approach to the evaluation of the LEG, building on the key evaluation questions, and shaped by the draft Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and LEG Theory of Change. Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) were created for each set of conversations and focus groups, with co-designed with the LEG members and LEG leaders. See **Appendix 1** for detailed KLOE’s.

##### A. Desk based review

A qualitative and quantitative desk-based review was undertaken of the following documents:

- LEG Strategy and Theory of Change
- LEG Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (draft)
- A sample of co-created training – CLICK: Path to Protection training and LEG case studies (March 2025)
- A sample resource - Media Guidance: Responsible, respectful, reporting on Technology Assisted Child Sexual Abuse (March 2025)
- A sample of influencing research and training resource – Influencing the methodology of CESAGRAM research: Towards a Comprehensive European Strategy Against Grooming and Missing (October 2023)
- A sample of feedback to consultations – Consultation response to ‘Limitation Law in Child Sexual Abuse Cases’ (August 2024)
- LEG attendance data at LEG meetings, wellbeing sessions and wellbeing away day
- LEG project summary database
- LEG Wellbeing Survey data

As well as the planned desk top review, three additional resources were reviewed that were frequently identified in interviews with LEG members and focus groups with stakeholders:

- ASCEND website and letter – A campaign in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service that created a personal letter in the words of survivors, for officers to

provide to children after the discovery of online TACSA; as well as a website of resources for parent/caregivers (2024)

- Hydrant: When You Are Ready – a CSE Taskforce National Campaign to enable disclosures of online and offline abuse, and the campaign de-brief from Hydrant to LEG members (2024)
- CLICK: Path to Protection training launch session for LEG members (2025)

## **B. Conversations with LEG members and LEG leaders**

We created spaces for conversations with LEG members (current and previous) and the two LEG leaders, providing choices about if and how they would prefer to be involved in the evaluation. Starting with a video introduction from the evaluator and proposed methodology to the LEG, which maximised accessibility and engagement through choice and personalisation. This was followed with an online meeting facilitated by the LEG leaders, provision of introductory materials and a consent process. LEG members and leaders were offered a choice of how they would prefer to participate in the evaluation including; conversations online or in person, individually or small groups, whether to communicate via using email/WhatsApp, and with the option of interpreters or personal assistants if required to optimise their engagement. All participants were followed up after the conversation in a debrief call with LEG leaders.

Conversations took place with:

- Six current LEG members (five online and one in person)
- Two LEG leaders – Head of Advocacy and Victim and Survivor Advocate
- One previous LEG member

Conversations with LEG members explored:

- Whether the LEG feels a safe and supportive space?
- How have you been equipped to be part of LEG?
- Whether you are supported to be heard and shape the work of the LEG?
- How have you been impacted by being part of LEG?
- How have you been able to make changes within Marie Collins Foundation?
- How have you been able to influence academics, policy makers, legal system and industry?

## **C. Focus groups for stakeholders**

We invited stakeholders including MCF staff, researchers, policy leads, sector experts and frontline staff who had worked with the LEG previously. The online Focus Groups (using Teams) asked for their views on the set up and work of the LEG, and the impact working with LEG had on their project/campaign and future practice. Focus groups (with number of attendees) included:

- MCF staff (3) and trustees (4)
- Researchers and academics from three universities (4)
- Frontline staff and campaign leaders from across criminal justice – including local and national police and the National Crime Agency (4)
- Policy leaders/sector experts representing government and third sector organisations (4)

The conversations and focus groups were recorded to allow transcription and were deleted shortly after the analysis had been completed. Responses for each KLOE were collated in a thematic analysis database which incorporated the five key evaluation questions. Themes from focus groups and conversations were identified against each key topic area of the KLOEs, as well as triangulation with the findings from desk top review; allowing thematic analysis and the identification of direct quotes.

## 4. Findings

This evaluation found that a core principle of the way MCF works is to elevate the voices of the LEG, and to share their expertise in presentations, influencing conversations and training. MCF believes that professionals learn best when hearing real life experiences and want practitioners to hear directly from the LEG about the needs of victims and survivors. A spokesperson from MCF said 'We need to stop treating survivor agency as optional. If we're serious about protecting children, we have to start by giving them their power back.'

The findings from this evaluation bring together evidence from the desk top review, conversations with LEG members, professional interviews and focus groups; collated around the key evaluation topics:

- Getting started in LEG
- Safe and supportive LEG
- Shaped by survivors
- Impact of LEG on group members
- Impact of LEG on MCF internally
- Impact on the wider system

### 4.1 Getting started in LEG

#### LEG set-up process

The evaluation first considered the process of the establishment of LEG, its core principles and membership. The LEG was established in 2023, growing from earlier work in MCF to engage with survivors of TACSA on an individual basis; and based on research and an established knowledge of running groups. We heard that MCF identified patterns of re-traumatisation and exploitation of survivors in other lived experience groups that they did not want to repeat. Early LEG members were involved in shaping the processes at MCF and the LEG leaders, both survivors themselves, were previously LEG members. This inbuilt survivor leadership has shaped the thoughtful and survivor focused way the MCF LEG has been established, with evidence of ongoing learning and reflection to minimise re-traumatisation and ensure respectful and meaningful engagement.

A key principle of the MCF LEG is to do no harm whilst creating a platform to advocate for change. Industry leaders noticed a significant difference with the way the MCF LEG is run, stating that in other lived experience groups this had not been the case, sometimes leaving survivors visibly upset.

"An overarching hope for the group and its members have always been that they would be provided a platform...to advocate for the changes that they want to see." LEG leader

"One of the hopes of the (LEG) project was that we'd have a resource that we could access that that wasn't unethical or creating more harm." MCF Senior Team

The selection process included identification at events in the sexual violence sector, approaching survivors known to the team directly, self-referrals and referrals by a therapeutic practitioner; with an informative section on the MCF website for new members to find out about the work of the LEG. The 'LEG Processes and Procedures' document set out that LEG members are required to be 18 years or over, have experienced TACSA, be at a place in their recovery journey where they feel able to engage in both discussions and advocacy work, and willing to undergo a basic DBS check.

Once a survivor has been identified there is clear, well documented and robust process of recruitment into LEG including an expression of interest, a background check, an online interview to assess someone's readiness to join, followed by an in-person interview, a DBS process and a three stage induction programme; all supported by a suite of policies and procedures. These were developed during the last two years and now form a robust recruitment and induction process that safeguards future and current members.

LEG members are not employed by MCF and there is no contractual obligation. Instead, as projects are identified, all LEG members are invited to contribute to each project in a time limited way for a set reimbursement, with three to four typically involved in each project. There was an awareness of the potential for bias by only hearing from survivors who feel able to join a LEG or from survivors who make a fulltime career from lived experience work.

Some concerns were raised that when setting up a LEG group it is important to ensure that the LEG does not become 'the tail wagging the dog' and direct the organisational strategy. However, this evaluation has identified a balanced approach with LEG members having annual opportunities to feed into MCF strategy as a group and in quarterly individual 1:1 meetings; being invited to contribute to all projects; and being offered the opportunity to take part in training that MCF undertakes either in-person at events or through pre-recorded case examples.

Finally, a risk was identified for the LEG leaders themselves, noting the considerable impact of leading LEG on their work life balance and the risk of burn out. The LEG leaders host most LEG meeting outside of core working hours, to fit with the schedules of LEG members who often have fulltime roles themselves. They then make themselves available by phone or WhatsApp for two hours after the evening meeting or over weekends for LEG members who may wish to debrief. Whilst this opportunity, which is greatly appreciated by LEG members (see section 4.2) is not often taken up, it does place an additional burden on LEG leaders who are survivors themselves and already have significant time in lieu accrued from evening meetings.

### **Joining LEG**

Survivors reported joining LEG with the hope of building a sense of community and a support system; and that they would make a difference by adding their voice to other voices. They wanted to use their own experiences to make a difference for other victims and survivors, with some describing being part of LEG as 'empowering', knowing you are

helping others. The response from all the LEG members was overwhelming support for the way the LEG is run at MCF and how they have experienced joining and being part of the group.

"I belong to quite a few of these Lived Experience Groups and the Marie Collins Foundation are head above everyone else...Everyone else just doesn't even compare." LEG member

"I am now part of an amazing Lived Experience Group with the charity Marie Collins Foundation (MCF). I have always wanted to help people who have experienced technology-facilitated sexual assault, so in therapy my therapist and I spoke about how I could do this. After searching widely on the internet, I came across MCF. As part of their Lived Experience Group, I can try to make change alongside other survivors. I feel more confident talking about online sex abuse and being able to share my story in hopes that other people can see they are not alone." LEG member in METRO article

Some LEG members reported feeling worried at the start that it would be too time consuming and could be triggering or re-traumatising for them. Others felt that their voices may not be relevant or that they did not have the right TACSA experience. LEG members said that anyone joining a lived experience groups needs to be aware that being involved means facing your experiences of abuse repeatedly and that it is confronting. However, LEG leaders and professionals in focus groups were equally aware of not taking advantage of survivors or placing a burden on them by overusing their experiences.

"My main concern was that...I couldn't speak because I didn't have it as bad as others, whereas I realise now that that doesn't matter." LEG member

"It can be very challenging at times and you are facing the worst part of your life multiple times over...that needs to be sort of conscious in their mind when they're going in." LEG member

"Anybody that is thinking about joining, it's a really positive experience." LEG member

## **Representation**

Both LEG members, MCF and external partners all agreed that the LEG can never be totally representative of all people to have experienced all types of TACSA, as the variables are so great. The current LEG membership is predominantly white and female, with two male members, although the members did say they valued the mixed genders in the group. There was a consensus that the current LEG membership does represent a range of types of TACSA, gender, sexuality and includes members with mental and physical disabilities. LEG members noted how they have learnt so much from listening to each other's experiences, and how even though they have experienced different types of TACSA they often resonate over similar impacts of the abuse.

The notable gaps in LEG membership were representation from other races, men and children. The most significant gap appears to be the age of the LEG, with all current members being adults and mostly over the age of 30. Although MCF is actively seeking to recruit younger adults to the LEG, there was a consensus that it would not be appropriate

for children under 18 years to join the LEG as is. Currently the LEG hears the voice of children and young people either via MCF professionals supporting young people therapeutically (themes shared at MCF weekly meetings) or by offering space for young people to meet one of the LEG leaders 1:1. Future plans could include creation of an anonymous platform for young people to feed into or by setting up a separate young person's LEG.

### **Work of LEG to date**

There have been 33 projects since LEG started in 2023 with 10 active members and nine survivors who were previously members of LEG. The active LEG members have been involved in 14 projects each (range 4 to 23) and the previous LEG members were involved in four projects each (range 1-8). **Appendix 2** provides a summary of the LEG projects to date.

Six LEG members have been involved in media opportunities, on average two each (range 1-4). These have included opportunities in radio and TV, contribution to two newspaper articles and one piece on social media.

12 of the LEG members have been involved in events, on average two each (range 1-5). These events have included four conferences, one event in parliament, a launch event and two guidance seminar/webinars.

## **4.2 Safe and supportive LEG**

### **Voice**

Professionals in focus groups observed that LEG recognises individuals as survivors, not victims, who are enabled to raise their voices. In conversations with LEG members, we heard that everyone's voice matters and they reported feeling confident that nothing they say will be seen as 'ridiculous'. Meanwhile, LEG leaders were aware that some group members come into LEG with low self-esteem feeling like their experience is not relevant. The leaders described how they ensure group members do not feel like they need to downplay their abuse or compare themselves to others who 'had it worse'. LEG members noted that although disagreements do happen, they aren't negative or combative, and the LEG leaders always offer extra support after meetings as well as checking in if someone leaves early. LEG members described the group as 'balanced and non-hierarchical' and this is a testament to the way the LEG leaders have established trust in the group.

"It makes you feel a lot safer knowing that actually there's not going to be a consequence for what you're saying. You know, everything matters, every voice matters, and nothing that you say is going to ever be considered ridiculous or stupid.... And for me, that feels huge. I never feel unsafe. I've never felt unsafe in any of the meetings." LEG member

"We often have differing opinions with each other, but the group has fostered quite an environment of accepting we all have a very different story and a different understanding." LEG member

### **Choice**

There was repeated evidence from conversations with LEG members and the LEG leaders, that group members have the choice to be involved a much or as little as they want to and feel able to. There is never any pressure to be involved in a project and LEG members

reported feeling they could step away at any point without any guilt or embarrassment. An industry professional described how a LEG member could not contribute on the day as planned but was enabled to write a powerful statement instead that was read out on their behalf. During project meetings we heard from group members that the LEG leaders are adept at drawing in voices of the quieter group members or offering the chance to respond later via a voice memo.

"The messaging was just so consistent of I'm in control of this process, and I'm in control of my involvement." LEG member

"There's no pressure...you don't have to speak if you don't want to speak, if you don't want to contribute, if you don't feel able to put your camera on." LEG member

"I remember one of them decided on the day not to participate but actually wrote a really powerful statement which we then read." Industry Focus Group

### **Enabling**

LEG leaders ensure that group members involved in events are prepared and equipped before events, providing multiple opportunities to review content, practice presentations and offer support and feedback. We also heard from LEG members and leaders how they are offered regular training including: media and presentation skills, speech writing, introduction to counselling, vicarious trauma, safeguarding, safer recruitment processes and more recently a series of introductions to the role of external agencies (such as Lucy Faithfull Foundation, Internet Watch Foundation, Ofcom). As well as being invited to the annual MCF conference, so that they can understand the wider context of the work.

"When we did our panel speaking, there was lots of meetings beforehand and guidance...we weren't just literally thrown in if you had to do any events." LEG member

"We have had a media training session around how to guide conversation and give us the strength to not talk about things when people are pushing us" LEG member

### **Wellbeing and ongoing support**

We heard that MCF arranges an annual LEG Wellbeing Day, offers a small wellbeing budget for swimming or yoga and can arrange individual therapy if required. Each LEG member has access to check-ins after each meeting, monthly wellbeing drop-ins (typically two to four LEG members attend), a WhatsApp group (monitored evenings and weekends) and a 1:1 quarterly meeting to reflect on how LEG is going for them and their priorities for the future.

"It's just nice to just have that break from speaking about abuse and just having normal conversations with people." LEG member

A LEG Wellbeing Survey in 2025 was completed by six members who all strongly agreed that MCF actively support and promote the emotional wellbeing of LEG members. Four of the six felt the monthly wellbeing drop-in sessions are useful, and all valued the quarterly check in sessions to provide space to discuss personal wellbeing needs. They all felt their wellbeing



needs were supported while being part of LEG and four of the six found the information provide by MCF related to mental health and emotional wellbeing was helpful.

“Being with MCF has been crucial in empowering myself to heal, and it makes me believe in the work I do.” LEG Wellbeing survey response

“Although life is challenging especially with unpredictable complex health, the value of the LEG work has such a positive impact on my wellbeing knowing my voice offers help, support and hope to other victims and survivors. Being heard and redirecting my own trauma into something positive makes such a difference and a reason to keep learning.” LEG Wellbeing survey response

However, MCF senior team, trustees and external professionals did observe the pressure this LEG Wellbeing Offer puts on the LEG leaders, who are survivors themselves. Both LEG leaders place a significant burden on themselves being available evenings and weekends for meetings and ad hoc check-ins over the phone or by monitoring the WhatsApp group. However, the LEG leaders reported they can access their own clinical supervision and did not report feeling overwhelmed by the support they offer. External professionals observed that they draw on their own empathy as survivors themselves and feeling part of the community of the LEG.

"Our aim is to always have more than two members of staff present at every meeting with LEG members to ensure that one facilitates and one is sort of monitoring the group for anything if they're struggling with anything." LEG leaders

"We have a responsibility to be there for them to provide the support that we can" LEG leaders

“The LEG leaders know them [LEG group] well - and the leaders have their own ways of keeping themselves steady." Research Focus Group

### **Safeguarding**

We heard in focus groups and from LEG members that the LEG leaders are protective of LEG members, taking time to understand each project opportunity that LEG is approached to be involved by external stakeholders and not automatically agreeing to every request. The LEG leaders are always present in meetings with external agencies. Professionals in the Research focus group described a level of protectiveness from the LEG leaders that extended to clear expectations for their responsibilities as professionals engaging with the group. For example, after a recent project they were asked to acknowledge LEG in the publication, provide a wrap up meeting to debrief the LEG and share the final outputs. They also described how they knew they would be ‘called out if they overstepped the mark’ when meeting with the LEG. Bringing professional experience of ethical research methods, the Research Focus Group said that they could see ‘safeguarding was hardwired into LEG and that the leaders were able to manage the messiness of trauma’.

“There's an appropriate level of protectiveness where [LEG leaders] and their CEO rightfully interrogate opportunities that come to them and don't just kind of exploit out and say yes

to everything without any due diligence on how it's going to affect their survivors.” Industry Focus Group

In LEG meetings, we heard that there are always two leaders to ensure someone can drop off the call to check-in if a LEG member leaves a call early. A LEG member said, ‘they treat us like human beings, with no sad faces and no judgement.’

"The well-being meeting is your place to come and talk about whatever you're feeling and when we're in project meetings, we talk about project work." LEG leaders

### **LEG policies and procedures**

During the Oak funded project phase, a series of LEG documentation has been developed including:

- LEG handbook – highlights the core values, opportunities to get involved, support available, Code of Conduct, payment and expenses, social media and confidentiality, keeping others safe and complaints
- The handbook and induction programme link to the following MCF policies: Confidentiality and Ethics, Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, DBS, Social Media, Expenses, Data Management and Privacy, Complaints, Whistleblowing, Health and Safety and Volunteer
- LEG Processes and Procedures – setting out recruitment, member support and finances
- Induction programme - a three-stage induction plan and template
- Recruitment process – a detailed process and template
- Templates for recording check in notes, quarterly review meetings, induction tracker, applicant tracker, emergency contact details, bank details for reimbursement, equality and diversity monitoring form, personal information sheet, recruitment checklist

MCF have also developed a model of payment during this time in keeping with the LEG members status as volunteers and not employees. They are now offered a pre-agreed rate per project based on anticipated input from each LEG member, although some LEG members prefer to work for no remuneration.

The handbook is a high quality, welcoming handbook for all LEG members; which sets out from the start how much MCF value the perspectives that all members will bring, demonstrates how LEG is central to the work of MCF and acknowledges that victim and survivor voices will help MCF achieve their vision.

## **4.3 Shaped by survivors**

### **Shaping the workplan**

The LEG leaders clearly described how the LEG group members shape the workplan of LEG through conversations in quarterly review meetings, at the annual strategic planning and as new projects are presented to the group. They aim to build confidence and empower the LEG members to share their priorities regularly, whilst acknowledging that they cannot

always progress with all ideas. However, the LEG leaders did reflect that they could have added more touch points with the LEG before bringing the draft LEG strategy for review.

In terms of the MCF strategy, the senior team acknowledged that there are ideas shared in both directions. The MCF senior team may identify campaigns and ask the LEG to work with to bring a survivor voice; as well as the LEG raising their priorities with MCF that can result in a new project or campaign. It was noted that although something might be very important to the LEG, it may not always fit within the MCF model of work or the direction.

**"If it fits with MCF strategy, then MCF can be the vehicle to enable change." MCF Senior Team**

We heard several examples of ideas that had come from priorities raised by group members and turned into LEG projects, which have had impact internally within MCF and externally:

- **Sex and relationships** - LEG members spoke about the impact of abuse on sex and relationships in a session, and within a week the LEG leaders worked with the MCF team to start work in this area.
- **Pornography** - A pornography panel with LEG members was created at the 2023 MCF Conference following a suggestion from the group members.
- **Sentencing review** - Concerns that were raised about sentencing after sexual abuse have led to LEG members and MCF responding the national Sentencing Review.

**"A member of the [LEG] group had said I really wish there was a resource about having sex after sexual abuse because it's something so many survivors need to go through and talk about. But materials don't really go there... And now I think [LEG and MCF] are exploring how to create that resource." Industry Focus Group**

**"Quarterly check-ins are a good avenue for raising interest in projects/topics." LEG member**

**"Recently we were talking about how no one ever talks about a positive sex life after this type of abuse. And it would be great if we could work with some other organisations on creating resources around positivity, about sex and body, and [LEG leaders] have taken that away to start looking into it." LEG member**

**"Within like a week I caught up with [LEG member of staff], who was talking all about sentencing and how we can talk about the guidance." LEG member**

As well examples where MCF has created opportunities for the LEG:

- **Police campaigns** - MCF suggested to National Policing Hydrant Programme and National Crime Agency that they utilise voice of LEG members in their campaigns
- **Ofcom** - Ofcom sought advice from MCF when setting up their own LEG group

### **Shaping individual projects**

All potential projects are presented to the group by the LEG leaders, having vetted the project themselves, and the LEG members have the choice whether they would like to be involved. LEG members said the briefing and introductory information from the LEG leaders helped them understand projects and decide whether to get involved. They never feel

under any pressure to get involved. Typically, five LEG members are involved in most projects (range 1-9) and projects always begin with the development of a shared workplan with the LEG leaders, after asking “How would you like to approach this?”

The project trackers show that active LEG members have been involved in 14 projects (range 4-23), two media opportunities and two events each over their time in the LEG; with others joining LEG for a shorter time and getting involved in 1-8 projects.

### **Case Example 1: DRAGON S – University of Swansea**

#### **Aim:**

DRAGON (Developing Resistance Against Grooming Online) is a digital technology innovation programme with a range of research projects that improve practices to keep children safe from technology-assisted sexual exploitation and abuse, including online grooming. When they developed DRAGON Shield, the University of Swansea invested time to work with 250 child safeguarding practitioners, children, and lived experience experts from over 30 countries, including the LEG at MCF.

#### **Method:**

The DRAGON S project was highlighted by LEG members and the Research and Academia Focus Group as a great example of LEG being supported to engage throughout the project. Five LEG members were actively involved in this project including an introduction meeting, advisory board, workshops giving input to the design process, review and feedback on blueprint resources, and an outreach event.

The DRAGON S academic lead said “It was an intense process to get to know the LEG, with 8-10 sessions for three hours online, creating storyboards, working with a scriptwriter, learning how to voiceover. We had meals together and met in person, when possible. The work had a social function too.”

#### **Outcomes:**

The University of Swansea identified learning from the DRAGON S project that will shape future work on the DRAGON programme including the importance of:

- Pre-briefing with LEG leaders to risk assess who could be approached to be involved
- Offering a pre-briefing for the participants before they meet the academics
- Ideally ensuring lived experience groups are involved earlier in the process - noting that ethics and funding can block this
- In person meetings were possible
- Enabling creativity as part of the development process

## **4.4 Impact of LEG on group members**

### **Skills and confidence**

LEG members described an increase in confidence since joining LEG, which has empowered them to speak in situations they never thought possible and provided experiences for their CV – such as speaking in the House of Lords or working with LADBible on targeted ads on porn sites that are seen by thousands of people. One LEG member said, ‘they give me the

confidence to interact'; whilst others described being able to set their own boundaries about what to share and when, such as knowing that they can say no to a journalist or external stakeholder if they are pushing for more detail. The professionals in the industry focus group noticed their increased confidence and commented on how their ability to articulate what had happened to them was powerful. One LEG leader described how some members of the group had not previously felt able to have conversations about TACSA outside of LEG but had said they now felt empowered to be able to have these conversations with other people, with family or friends or colleagues. Another said that they had previously been untrusting of survivor groups but at MCF they felt able to speak as there are clear boundaries, they are paid and can choose what to be involved in. This LEG member had turned down offers to speak to media outlets direct, as they knew the support would not be as robust as MCF offers.

"I never realised the importance and value of how your own experience can be redirected into something a lot more positive, more powerful." LEG member

"It really felt like it kind of cut through, not simply because of their stories, but actually because of the way they were able to articulate them, the confidence that they felt."  
Industry Focus Group

"It's personal development for me because I've spoken at places that I wouldn't have dreamed about. I've spoken to people that I would never normally have interacted with and I've gained opportunities that I wouldn't have been able to know about on my own." LEG member

"What I'm most proud of, in terms of the impact, is seeing their confidence." LEG leader

### **Making a difference**

LEG members described the unexpected benefit of repurposing their painful experiences into something more positive. The LEG and MCF have created opportunities for LEG members that they would not have access to or been able to advocate for as an individual. Examples that were frequently shared were the Hydrant campaign, the impact of being on panel at the MCF Conference, creating the ASCEND letter for police officers to handout to young people when TACSA has been identified, attending the Porn Coalition in parliament and creating a guide for journalists about the use of language in media reporting of TACSA. We also heard about the importance of being listened to and understood in LEG meetings, and how the LEG leaders encourage the group that there's always somewhere that they can be making a change.

"When we see resources going out there and people responding to them, it helps you cope further because you realise that good is coming out of it."

"The impact of what I've been through, it's not in vain." LEG member

"I find it so rewarding, like what more can you do to get fulfilment and satisfaction from knowing that you're doing something like that." LEG member

"I think it's a really important group. It kind of adds life to the work, really gives it a zing"  
LEG member

"It's played a significant role in my recovery journey. It's allowed me to take what has happened to me and transform it into something purposeful rather than letting it define who I am. Through this work, I've learned a great deal not just about the abuse itself, but about myself." LEG member

### **Sense of community**

There was a recurring message about the sense of community that has been created in the LEG, with group members describing how proud they felt of the group and each other, and the sense of family and comradery. The LEG was described as a safe space where they met with like-minded people with whom they had a connection and had developed friendships over the years. Although the group predominantly meets online, the in-person meet ups were greatly appreciated by members.

A core group of LEG members attend the wellbeing spaces regularly just to chat with the group; and the WhatsApp group was appreciated by many as a friendly space where they felt safe to vent, chat and seek advice. Some stakeholders in MCF raised worries about the potential for LEG members to become dependent on the group as a therapeutic space, and this not being the primary focus of LEG. However, the sense of community that the group provides appears to be balanced well with the core purposes of the group: influencing the wider system, ensuring it is survivor lead and enabling survivors to advocate safely by providing therapeutic support throughout.

"I've also found a sense of community in this space, surrounded by others who truly understand." LEG member

"If I didn't have that group, I wouldn't have anyone else that had been through this that I know, so I wouldn't have people to bounce thoughts off and have safe space to talk about it." LEG member

### **Managing difficulties**

We heard from LEG members that sometimes there can be a feeling of duty towards other survivors to continue the work even when things are quite difficult, and others mentioned the guilt of missing a meeting. However, all felt confident that this is well managed by LEG Leaders encouraging members to take a break if they need to step away from contact for a few months. LEG members felt reassured that they had this choice to step away at any point and that there was no judgement from the group or the LEG leaders. Some of the projects were identified as harder for LEG members to engage in, such as lengthy legal or policy documents; but in those projects the LEG leaders provide summaries of key action points to review and comment on.

"Conversations with [LEG leaders] and them saying that I can just stop off a project and I can back off. I can take a break for 2-3 months and not get emails from them if I'm going through a hard time outside of it." LEG member

“We used to be too open in our questions to LEG, but now the LEG leaders help us to shape our questions to be more bespoke.” MCF Senior team

### **What could be better**

LEG members were consistently happy with the way that LEG is run, they spoke highly of the support they received from LEG leaders and felt involved in the planning and prioritisation of future work. Although some described receiving feedback from projects that they had worked on, others identified that they didn't feel like they always 'closed the loop' on projects. They were sometimes left wondering what the outcome of their feedback had been and suggested LEG leaders could request external stakeholders provide feedback.

Suggestions for improving LEG included:

- LEG leaders to require external stakeholders provide feedback - This could include final copies of documents/resources, legal/policy frameworks, digital downloads of resources, number of clicks on adverts, feedback from training days/events.
- Consider how to hear from young people and families - They recognised the need to hear from young people who are experiencing TACSA now and have knowledge of the impact of the technology on young people today; and suggested a young person's LEG.
- Involve LEG members in MCF staff recruitment.
- More in-person engagement in future, within the LEG but also with staff in MCF.

LEG members and leaders shared they were looking forward to a day when there did not need to be a LEG, as abuse doesn't exist anymore.

## **4.5 Impact on MCF internally**

MCF has a long history of listening to the voice of survivors of TACSA to guide their work and to enable them to influence the wider system, which has been strengthened by the establishment of the LEG over the last two years. We heard from external stakeholders and the MCF senior team that the LEG are central to all the work of MCF, with MCF speakers bringing the voices of LEG members to the way they speak in presentations. They influence everything that the charity does including feeding into the organisation's strategy and Theory of Change, contributing to training and influencing practice such as the development of a Code of Practice for staff and volunteers. One LEG member said, 'this charity gets it'. The MCF Theory of Change states 'The voices of our lived experience group are able to remind us at a personal level that each one of these numbers is a child. The voices of people with lived experience of child sexual abuse play an important role in understanding how to respond to and prevent this form of abuse.'

### **Partners in co-design**

MCF regularly use direct quotes from LEG members in training, consultations and resources; having created a toolkit of powerful quotes. We saw evidence of all resources, website and training having direct input from LEG members such as the CLICK: Path to Protect training, Discovery vs Disclosure, Finding Out Your Child Has Been Harmed, Harm Reduction Guide. A LEG leader said that after staff had drafted the training, they gathered case studies from the



LEG and quickly realised that they would need to 'go back to the drawing board!' We were told that the training content is now 60% LEG and 40% professional input. The CLICK: Path to Protect training led to the creation of video case studies that are used in the training, but also available to use again at other events or in other resources. Gathering these case studies means that MCF do not have to keep asking the LEG members to talk about their experiences repeatedly. A LEG member, describing the development of the POWER resource, said the MCF staff team were open to the LEG completely adapting and changing it. LEG members felt like they have the opportunity not only to influence training/resources/website being developed, but also to provide insight and impact what the wider MCF team are doing as well.

"We revamp all of the key messages that they [LEG] want us to be getting out there, both in their work and MCF's work, and that informs everything at MCF. One LEG member said 'We need to blow the lid off child sexual abuse' and now our CEO quotes that everywhere we go." LEG leaders

"Can we get the views of the lived experience group. Now we have that ability right from the beginning and actually it's almost now part of the system. It's not a bolt on thought process." MCF senior team

"We also have a whole load of resources that LEG have pulled together. Quotes that any member of the team, when they're presenting at any conferences or anything, can take because we don't like wheeling out the survivor." MCF senior team

"I find that now more when I'm engaging externally I'll think around the LEG...what are the kind of things they might want to want me to get over in this kind of conversation?" MCF senior team

This openness and ability to influence makes the LEG feel valued and that they have a voice. They can see the difference they are making to MCF internally, as well as contributing to external projects.

"I've used my perspective a lot in going into projects and changing the narration of the projects and changing what that project is sort of trying to convey...We've got feedback before where people have not thought about it from this way before and that's made me feel like I've got a real voice within MCF." LEG member

"And I think being heard and being listened to is probably the two key things that we have been able to do. And you know, not being silenced. No one's telling you, oh, no, you can't say that. Every opinion matters." LEG member

### **Shaping the work of LEG**

LEG members and MCF staff described how the LEG co-design the LEG strategy and LEG Theory of Change each year, contribute to recruiting new LEG members and can provide further ideas for prioritisation in their 1:1's and LEG meetings. LEG members reported they had plenty of opportunities to feed into the direction of the work of LEG, as well as examples of the LEG leaders ensuring all had a chance to speak in meetings or contribute after meetings. Even though some LEG members reported speaking less on topics that were

not so relevant to their type of TACSA, they said that they always felt their ideas mattered and that the LEG leaders created space for them to feed into conversations.

"I think that for me is huge when you speak to professionals and it's stuff that they hadn't considered before and you see that light bulb go on." LEG member

### **Leading the way as sector leaders**

External stakeholders in focus groups observed that MCF staff always speak about the LEG externally and that is clear that the voice of LEG is central to all they do. The Industry focus group described MCF as a sector leader in ensuring the voice of survivors with lived experience in central to their work, and that MCF has a great reputation because of their work with LEG. For example: The Home Office and Ofcom both approached MCF for advice on how to set up their own lived experience group, the Hydrant programme were guided by MCF to start to provide debriefs for lived experience groups after they engage them in a project and other stakeholders have been encouraged to write thank you letters to each LEG member involved to add to their "I am great" folder or CV. MCF are clearly influencing the sector with their best practice in this field.

"Marie Collins Foundation staff, and as an organisation, still champion their [LEG] work and champion their ethics, even when they're not there to hear it." Industry focus group

"I have turned to them so often as kind of like leaders of best practice in this sector."  
Industry focus group

"LEG have gravitas and they enhance the credibility of LEG." MCF senior team

MCF senior leaders also recognised some of the difficulties within this work and there was evidence that the senior team and trustees are not afraid to tackle the knotty issues head on. We heard how MCF prioritise making space and time for LEG input, even though it can be time consuming and can require the organisation to move at a different pace. One LEG member commended MCF on the trauma informed approach they took when raising a difficult and personal matter, how they felt listened to and how the conversation has opened new understandings and a new piece of work for MCF and the LEG.

"I think they're very open to listen to those difficult conversations where I think if something was going wrong, they'd be like, right, let's sit down and have a chat." LEG member

### **Impactful MCF projects** for the LEG members include:

- ASCEND resources for the police – LEG members noticed how they were called in at the start of this project to co-analyse the research findings and shape key messages for the ASCEND letter and resources
- CLICK Path to Protection training – LEG members audio and video clips brought to life issues that are not spoken of by other major training providers (**See Case Example 2**)
- POWER resources – LEG members described the openness of the training team to adapt to LEG feedback

- MCF website and resources – Opportunity to clarify areas that were not clear and give suggestions for how it could be improved. Knowing that the resources webpage has been visited 692 times in the two months since the latest resources were launched (July - August 2025).
- MCF Conference - LEG has played a key role speaking at the MCF conference for the last three years in 2022, 2023 and 2024

"The TACSA resources can provide some guidance for professionals in the world to provide them with a wider understanding or a set of knowledge and skills and wording that can really change a person's journey on disclosure and recovery." LEG member

A gap that was identified in the evaluation was the lack of awareness by some of the MCF Board trustees of the breadth and depth of the impactful work of the LEG. This coupled with a request from LEG to have more direct contact with MCF staff and board, provides an opportunity to explore how to create more regular contact.

#### Case Example 2: CLICK Path to Protect Training

##### Aim:

MCF wanted professionals in training to hear directly from survivors of TACSA about how practitioners respond, the impact that has on survivors and what a good response looks like. They set out to capture written, audio and video content from LEG members to include in this training package but also to use in future training to prevent the need to keep asking survivors for content.

##### Method:

The LEG members were invited to a one-to-one meeting, given the choice of written, audio or video format, and were paid a one-off fee for creation/approval of the final training assets. LEG members were asked 'what would you want a professional to know' about various topics including:

- What does a good practitioner response look like (police, school, social care)?
- How does the criminal justice process feel to victims?
- What is the impact of victim blaming language and bias?

##### Impact:

Before launching the training, MCF presented the training package to the LEG members that had contributed and they were 'blown away' by the content, saying that hearing each other's voices really brought the issues to life. One LEG member said, 'The training felt like new content that is not covered in other training days by major providers in the sector'. They really valued being shown how their voices were being used in the training and said that 'hearing other survivors' voices makes you feel less alone'. CLICK Path to Protect training has been delivered to 55 practitioners to date (August 2025).

## 4.6 Impact on the wider system

### Frontline practitioners

We heard in the Frontline Practitioner Focus Group and from LEG members about an impactful project called ASCEND, that is changing the way the police respond when they

identify online images of a young person. The LEG worked with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to create a letter, written from the perspective of a LEG member to a young person, for the police to give out when they first meet a young person who has experienced online abuse. They also created grounding cards and an animation of Frequently Asked Questions; as well as a page on their website with a suite of [ASCEND](#) resources for parent/carers.

The MPS heard about the impact on a young person of knowing someone has seen their online images and the importance of reassuring the young person that the officer they are meeting at home has not viewed the online images. There is now a policy in place that ensures the attending officer that meets the young person has not seen the online image; and 500 MPS officers have been trained in the use of the letter, grounding cards and animation. Since then, the LEG leaders described seeing examples of families who contact MCF for support that have been given the ASCEND resources by police officers; and are working towards a national roll out of ASCEND.

"All of that was put together with the help of the lived experience group...everything that they told us was incorporated into that project and certain key things were drawn out and put into policy." Frontline Justice Focus Group

"We've now had two cases come through to us where families have been given that resource [ASCEND] and said that it really, really helped them navigate and understand the process and they felt more supported. And now we've got buy in from a couple of the largest police forces in the UK and we're really trying to get some additional funding to get it rolled out as much as possible .... to make that easier for that child and that family in a terrible time." LEG leaders

### **Influencing policy**

LEG members described how MCF creates a platform and gives them access to policy leads and government consultations in ways that they would not otherwise be able to do. External stakeholders valued the way that LEG leaders prepare them to work with survivors during consultations, especially those who had not worked with a LEG before. Examples include:

- Porn Coalition at the House of Lords - LEG leaders supported a LEG member to tell their story.
- Law of Apologies - Feedback from LEG members, and other organisations e.g. NAPAC, contributed to the government's decision to remove three years limitation for starting a personal injury claim, shifted the burden of proof to commence a trial to the defendant and removed the Law of Apologies, freeing up institutions to apologise to victim/survivors. The government response said they had listened to victims, survivors and experts through two consultations', and 'they have said they want action'. For example, they heard the message from LEG members that it can take 'decades for survivors to feel able to discuss their sexual abuse'.
- Response to the Independent Sentencing Review Final Report and Proposal for Reform – MCF responded to raise issues shared by LEG members around overuse of suspended sentences and inability of apply Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) Scheme

to TACSA cases. Although neither made it to the final review, MCF continued to stand behind LEG in their response, highlighting it as a missed opportunity.

"I spoke in the House of Lords. It was the highlight of my life...I thought, why am I here? They all know, they don't need to hear this. But actually, I know when I go to these places, it's the stories that [they] always remember, those lived experience stories. Even though you understand the situation, you know it's bad. It's the stories you remember." LEG member

"You can write to the MP all you want, but it doesn't go anywhere but with LEG behind you and with MCF behind you and the corporations that they partner up with as well, we do get to some incredible places." LEG member

MCF said "We believe the report represents a significant missed opportunity to recalibrate sentencing policy and practice for TACSA offences and to acknowledge victims. " Response to Sentencing Review

### Enabling access

MCF and LEG have a shared vision for enabling survivors to access support when they are ready, and the Hydrant teams 'When You Are Ready' campaign is a good example of the LEG enabling access to support (**See Case Example 3**). The LEG spent time thinking about the barriers to speaking out and worked with the Hydrant team to develop key messaging, particularly considering the impact of the choice of person to play the victim could mean to someone thinking about coming forward. For the LEG members, a memorable outcome was hearing of a 93-year-old who had watched the film clip on Crimewatch and reported child sexual abuse for the first time. In the Industry Partners Focus Group, professionals reflected that they worried about overusing LEG members and wanted to pay for their time as it was so impactful.

#### Case Example 3: National Police Chiefs Council - Hydrant 'When You Are Ready' campaign

##### Aim:

'When You Are Ready' was a co-produced, national campaign with the aim of encouraging adult victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation to reach out for support and ensure they feel seen, heard, and supported. Launched in October 2024, the campaign message was 'If you've been abused or exploited as a child, we are here, when you are ready. We understand. We believe. We care.'

##### Method:

Hydrant commissioned a creative agency, to deliver the campaign and through research and one-to-one interviews with LEG, after which they created a campaign film. The three-minute film features the voices of survivors who have experienced child sexual abuse and exploitation, walks through their decision to disclose their abuse to a loved one, support organisation and/or the police, and the impact it had on their life. After launch in October

2024, the Hydrant team offered a debrief session in January 2025 to learn for future projects with lived experience groups.

#### Outcomes:

The campaign was trailed live on BBC's Crimewatch in October 2024 using a 40 second edit of the full film. In the first three months, 2700 people viewed the support page, 3200 people have watched the video and there were 9971 total website views. LEG members described the significant impact of hearing that a 93-year-old who had watched the film clip on Crimewatch, had reported child sexual abuse for the first time.

#### Learning from the process:

LEG members felt the process worked well and were grateful for how they contributed to the content being created. They feedback that communication was good and that the interview was compassionate, leaving them feeling listened to and respected. However, they did not feel prepared for the personal and intrusive nature of the questions asked; finding it difficult not being able to see the person on the other end and needing to access the aftercare support – an agreement for videos-on approach would have been better. They also said they would have liked to see the whole 3-minute film on Crimewatch, not just a 40 second clip, as well as media coverage on news channels.

In terms of the accompanying website and resources, they encouraged Hydrant team not to shy away from including the negative side of disclosing while still encouraging people to feel confident to disclose. They suggested some additional resources could be available to know what to do if, for example friends or professionals do not respond well to a disclosure.

### **Wider impacts on practitioners' ways of working**

We heard that alongside feedback on specific projects, the LEG are impacting how people practice in the sector. For example, the Research and Academic Focus Group said the LEG influenced how they established and recruited to their Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP) at the University of Bristol, ensuring it is inclusive. The LEG shaped the participant information that was developed for LEAP; made suggestions about information sharing, anonymity, confidentiality; encouraged them to be more creative; advised on the types of questions and the language used; and the format of LEAP outputs.

LEG members also talked about the impact of taking part in panels and speaking at national and international conferences, knowing that they were influencing a wide range of professionals in the sector. This was especially so when the panels or topics were those suggested by LEG members themselves, such as religion and TACSA, pornography at the MCF conference, and the IICSA safeguarding panel.

### **Impact on society**

Several examples were highlighted in the evaluation which showcase the impact that the LEG is having on changing views and misconceptions in society about TACSA. The MCF response in the media to the Huw Edwards sentencing was an example of MCF and LEG

working together to highlight the issues with sentencing and raise awareness of the lifelong impact of TACSA.

In the response to Huw Edwards sentencing, LEG leaders and members spoke of the benefits of the media training they had about how to flip the narrative which was helpful in Huw Edwards response. Powerful quotes from LEG members and leaders were included in the final response.

Explaining the daily trauma of wondering who has viewed the images of your most traumatic experience, the survivor added: “Nothing strikes fear into my heart like the sentiments in the sentences ‘do I know you from somewhere?’ or ‘I swear I saw a picture of you somewhere,’ from people I am convinced I have never seen before.” Independent Article September 2024

A spokesman for the Marie Collins Foundation, said “It is myth that online crimes have less impact than physical abuse.... Where images or videos of the abuse are created, the permanency and lack of control over who sees them leaves significant and long-term impacts for victims and survivors. They are revictimized every time these are viewed. This is not a victimless crime.” Independent Article September 2024

Other areas that are impacting society more widely include:

- Guidance on language about TACSA - MCF published guidance for journalists, ‘Media Guidance - Responsible, respectful, reporting on Technology Assisted Child Sexual Abuse’ - **see Case Example 4**
- Guidance for practitioners about Victim Blaming Language - One LEG member said ‘if we start with the police and media, it will trickle down into wider society.’
- IWF ‘Think Before You Share’ campaign - An IWF spokesperson said, ‘we took on board their feedback and we’ve got a better campaign because of that.’
- Hydrant ‘When You Are Ready’ campaign - **see Case Example 3**

#### **Case Example 4: Guidance for Journalists. Media Guidance: Responsible, respectful, reporting on Technology Assisted Child Sexual Abuse**

##### **Context:**

In 2024, the media guide was co-created by LEG members to provide journalists with knowledge about the extent of TACSA and the growth in the production of abusive images, which has been exponential in recent years. The Internet Watch Foundation confirmed in their latest report that they have successfully removed more than 1 million webpages showing at least one, and often many tens, hundreds or thousands of Child Sexual Abuse images and videos in the past five years alone.

##### **Guidance content:**

The LEG members recommended that journalists are factual, not sensationalising, not sharing details of how to groom, avoid stereotyping the victim as broken/weak but including messages of hope from other survivors. They included practical advice on language to use, to bust the myth that online Child Sexual Abuse has less impact and is of



less immediate concern than offline abuse. They also recommend using language that places the responsibility with the perpetrator, using statistics to show the scale of the crime, turning off the comments section to stop trolls leaving comments that can be triggering and more painful than a poorly written article, providing supporting information, using diverse images and placing the voice of survivor at the centre.

Voice of survivors:

The resource has the voice of LEG members throughout - with direct quotes from each named LEG member.

"Media tailored with this guidance in mind can make the difference between empowering someone to disclose their experience and leaving them feeling silenced and powerless to speak out about their abuse. Your role in creating a safe space in the media is key to reaching victims and survivors – Jamie"

### Research methodologies

The LEG were invited by researchers to shape the research questions for the international research project CESAGRAM (**See Case Example 5**) and other research methodologies at the Universities of Bristol and Edinburgh. LEG members found the processes interesting and were keen to be part of future research, at the earliest stages where ethics allows. For example, they were invited to consider the linguistics, shape research questions, advise on creative sessions rather than questions, and give their own recommendations. Researchers noted that ethics committees in universities can shut down survivor engagement as it can be seen as too risky or costly; yet after working with LEG they said 'lived experience should be hardwired into all research projects'.

### Case Example 5: CESAGRAM - Towards a Comprehensive European Strategy Against Grooming and Missing

Aim:

CESAGRAM was a collaborative international research project, with a partnership of 11 organisations led by Missing Children Europe. The aim was to better understand the experiences of TACSA and how this relates to going missing, by speaking to 20 European young people aged 18-24 who had experienced tech-facilitated grooming and missing.

LEG feedback:

LEG members were invited by the CESAGRAM research team to review their proposed questions and recommended:

- Removal or rewording of questions that felt accusatory, such as:
  - Changing 'Where did you meet the offender(s)? ' to 'How did the offender first make contact with you?'
  - Change 'How did the contact between you progress? ' to 'How did the offender progress the contact?'
  - Change 'Did you tell anyone what was happening? ' to 'Were you in a position to tell anyone what has happening to you?'
- Being aware of triggering nature of the interviews, they suggested adding 'If you feel comfortable discussing it' to the beginning of some questions that could be triggering.

- Removing victim blaming language, such as:
  - Remove 'Can you think of any things in your life at that particular point, which made you more vulnerable to the abuse?' and a suggestion for researchers to gather this information from other sources/questions
  - Remove 'What advice would you give to young people to help them stay safe and prevent similar situations happening in the future?' - LEG feedback states that it is not any young person's role to keep themselves safe.
- Suggestion to direct questions about policy change in education, technology companies and government to professionals and not those with lived experience. Researchers should analyse the participants' responses to other questions to pull out the themes.
- LEG members valued the plan for the researcher to check how the participant is feeling and about their experiences of the interview, as well as the provision of a printed copy of the Debrief Form.
- With regards to consent LEG suggested:
  - Offer the choice to withdraw their consent even after the interview has been conducted and delete the data
  - Complete the consent before the interview, rather than on day of the interview, so that if participant is unhappy to progress then this does not feel like a 'rejection' when the interview is terminated

#### Outcomes:

Qualitative, semi-structured interviews were completed using amended questions and the findings were published in 2024. A copy of the final report was shared with the LEG members, although there was no mention of their role in shaping the research questions and methodology.

## 5. Conclusions

This evaluation has shown, the creation and development of the Marie Collins Foundation's Lived Experience Group represents a significant and thoughtful step in ensuring that the voices of survivors are central to shaping responses to Technology-Assisted Child Sexual Abuse. What began as a small group of survivors seeking to use their experiences for change has evolved during 2023/2025 into a structured, safe, and supportive space where members are empowered, respected, and able to contribute meaningfully to influencing practice, policy, and wider societal understanding. The findings demonstrate that the LEG is not only having a profound impact on its members, enabling confidence, healing and community, but is also making a tangible difference within MCF and across the wider system. From shaping national campaigns and training resources, to influencing frontline practice and research methodologies, the LEG has begun to establish itself as a model of best practice for survivor-led engagement. At the same time, the evaluation highlights areas of challenge and

opportunity – ensuring broader representation, embedding the voices of young people, securing sustainable funding, and strengthening feedback loops – all of which provide a roadmap for the next stage of growth.

## 5.1 What's going well

### Safe and supportive LEG

- Everyone has a voice – LEG is balanced and not hierarchical
- Choice to be involved as much as they want and able to step away when needed
- Enabled and trained to advocate in projects and events
- Well-lead with unanimous positive feedback for the LEG leaders
- Acknowledgement of the burden of leadership on survivor leaders
- Safeguarding and care for members wellbeing
- Safety and good governance – including policies, boundaries, safe recruitment and code of conduct
- Meaningful remuneration for LEG members

### Shaped by survivors

- Able to shape the direction of the work
- Priorities raised by LEG members lead to new LEG projects
- Representative of a range of types of TACSA, gender, sexuality and disability

### Impact of LEG on group members

- Confident and empowered to speak at events and to friends and family
- Repurposing painful experiences to make a difference
- Importance of being listened to and understood
- Created a sense of community and peer support

### Impact on MCF internally

- LEG central to all the work of MCF
- Partners in co-design of resources, website and training
- Created a toolkit of powerful quotes from LEG to prevent repeated requests
- Shape the work of LEG and MCF more widely
- MCF are sector leaders in taking a trauma informed approach to ensuring lived experience is central to their work

### Impact on wider system

- Changing frontline practice - change in police policy impacting frontline practice, with 500 officers trained in ASCEND resources
- Influencing policy through consultations – Law of Apologies, Porn Coalition
- Enabling disclosure and access to support – Hydrant ‘When You Are Ready’
- Wider impacts on practitioners’ ways of working – how other organisations are setting up lived experience groups
- Society – changing views in society about TACSA through media responses, campaigns, guidance for parents and publishing guidance for journalists

- Influencing research methodologies – including linguistics, research questions and creative methodologies
- The LEGs advocacy, guidance and challenge was valued by external partners, with some saying they feel it should be a paid for service

## 5.2 What could be better

- Hearing the voice of young people experiencing TACSA today
- Broader representation including greater racial and gender diversity
- More in-person meetings for LEG
- Requiring external stakeholders provide feedback when they engage with LEG
- Providing feedback and a debrief to LEG members on impact of their contribution and learning for future work
- Reporting on measurable outcomes of the impact of LEG – such as digital uptake of resources, change in frontline practice, policy change
- More focus on shaping the day-to-day running of MCF such as LEG members on recruitment panels or regular opportunities to meet with the Board to share the impact of LEG
- Consideration of length of membership and risk of 'professionalising' the role
- Identifying opportunities for sustainable LEG funding, including income generation for LEG services from external partners

## 5.3 Creating a framework for engaging adults with lived experience of TACSA

The evaluation has identified several key elements that could form a framework for the delivery of a lived experience group. Table 1 below summarises the framework components and progress to date in MCF's Lived Experience Group. One of the recommendations (see Section 6) of this evaluation is for MCF to co-design their own framework document which could be used for training and awareness raising in the sector; to set MCF apart as a best practice example of meaningful, ethical and impactful work with people with lived experience.

**Table 1: Framework of Best Practice for Lived Experience Groups**

<b>Key elements of a framework</b>	<b>MCF LEG progress</b>
Safe recruitment and vetting process	In place
Governance, policies and code of conduct	In place
Meaningful remuneration policy without impacting employment status/tax	In place
Charging external organisations for LEG consultancy/work	Future opportunity
A formalised agreement for working with external organisations in a professional capacity e.g payment, contractual obligation to provide feedback and outcomes	Future opportunity
Trauma informed induction and training process	In place
Wellbeing of LEG members - quarterly check ins, individual wellbeing reviews, wellbeing budget to be used by LEG member,	In place

post-meeting availability, wellbeing away days, onward referral for therapy	
LEG leadership - adequate staffing to allow two leaders per meeting, appropriate boundary setting, external clinical supervision	In place
The value of lived experience in LEG leadership to create empathy and minimise power imbalance	In place
Choice and control over projects taken on and level of involvement	In place
Representative of a broad range of types of TACSA and where possible age, gender, sexuality, race and disability	Partial
Enabling and preparation of LEG members for projects – detailed project brief, pre-meet prior to sessions with external stakeholders, choice of engagement methodologies, support during and after project work	In place
Preparation for events - speechwriting, presentation skills, opportunity to shape panel content and questions	In place
Payment for project work commensurate with lived experience role	In place
Debrief and feedback on outcomes after projects and events	Sometimes
Requirement for external agencies to provide thank you for contribution, copy of final resource and impact feedback	Future opportunity
Celebrate the outcomes of LEG - including impact on host organisation, external organisations and wider society; in a format shaped by LEG members	Future opportunity

## 6. Recommendations

1. Create a 'Framework of Best Practice for Lived Experience Groups'.
2. Establish a formalised agreement for external organisations consulting with LEG including a requirement to provide debrief session, feedback on final resource/policy and an impact report.
3. Identify a long-term funding solution for LEG, which could include charging external organisations to consult with LEG and/or income generation through training in the 'Framework of Best Practice for Lived Experience Groups'.
4. Consider ways to ensure that young people's voices with current experiences of TACSA are heard in the LEG, either through the establishment of a young person's LEG or a mechanism to capture the voices of young people to feed into LEG.
5. Create a suite of measurable outcomes for each project to report to the LEG, the Board, and external stakeholders.

## Appendix 1: Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs)

### 1. LEG MEMBERS

#### Opening questions

LEG members: Tell me about what brought you to the LEG? How did you hear about the LEG? What inspired you to join the LEG?

LEG members: What were your hopes and worries when you joined LEG?

LEG members: What would be your advice to someone else joining LEG?

#### Effectiveness of MCF support to enable the LEG to be advocates for change

##### **EQ1. To what extent is the LEG being delivered in a way that is safe and supportive for LEG group members?**

LEG members: Tell me about your induction into LEG? What training did you receive?

LEG members: Have you been supported to learn advocacy skills for influencing change and having your voice heard? Tell me how and give examples

LEG members: Do the LEG leaders help you feel safe and supported? How do they do this?

PROMPTS: confidentiality, safeguarding, managing conflict or power imbalances in the group

LEG members: Do you feel the LEG are representative of all people affected by TACSA?

PROMPT: children, all gender, race, religion, sexuality etc

##### **EQ2. To what extent do LEG members feel that the groups work can be shaped by yourselves? (MCF call this “survivor-led”)**

LEG members: Do you feel MCF empowers and enables survivors to lead the LEG? Tell us how

LEG members: Does the LEG ensure all survivor voices are heard? Tell us how? What about any power imbalances (if not already discussed)

LEG members: Is the work of LEG based on what you want to achieve? Do you feel you can input your priorities for things you would like LEG and/or MCF to address?

#### Impact of the LEG on its members, both personally and collectively

##### **EQ3. What impact, positive and/or negative, has participating in the LEG had on group members?**

LEG members: Tell us what a difference being part of LEG means to you?

LEG members: What has gone well?

LEG members: What are you most proud of since joining LEG?

LEG members: What has been difficult for you?

LEG members: What would you like to see different in future? What are your priorities?

LEG members: How is your wellbeing considered by the LEG leaders? Are you confident that they can effectively support your wellbeing?

#### Outcomes within MCF and the wider system as a result of the LEG

##### **EQ4. What role has the LEG played in shaping MCF’s activities, and what specific changes or impacts have resulted from its involvement?**

LEG members: Do you feel your views are listened to, heard and actioned?

LEG members: Do you feel you are bringing added value? And where does this fit with other factors that influence e.g. current practice, research

LEG members: Can you give an example of a specific change or impact within MCF that has happened as a result of your input/discussions/something the LEG feedback on?

LEG members: How were you supported to affect this change?

(\*N.B. Currently practice, research and LEG all influence work of MCF)

### **EQ5. What impact has the LEG had on the wider system?**

LEG members: Can you give an example of a specific change or impact in the wider system that has happened as a result of something the LEG feedback on?

LEG members: Do you feel that sharing your experiences is leading to meaningful change for victims and survivors?

LEG members: Do you feel that your involvement with researchers in the design of research has been important for victims and survivors who participate in those studies?

LEG members: Do you feel you have been able to meaningfully influence how TACSA is reported in the media?

LEG: Has your lived experience informed the development of industry regulation, legislation, policy?

#### **PROMPTS:**

- Engaged society in a conversation about TACSA
- Helps children to understand that TACSA is not their fault and able to come for help
- Increased knowledge of frontline staff
- Enable survivors to access support

## **2. LEG LEADERS**

### **Opening questions**

LEG leaders: Tell me about what led you to set up the LEG?

LEG leaders: What evidence base did you draw on?

LEG leaders: What were your hopes for the group? What were your worries for the group?

LEG leaders: How did you select the LEG members? Adult/child, range of representative members, consider protected characteristics, confidentiality (See recruitment methodology)

How do you ensure it is representative of people affected by TACSA?

### **Effectiveness of MCF support to enable the LEG to be advocates for change**

#### **EQ1. To what extent is the LEG being delivered in a way that is safe and supportive for LEG group members?**

LEG leaders: Can you provide examples of how you actively create a safe and supportive environment in the LEG? PROMPTS: training, confidentiality, safeguarding,

LEG leaders: How do you manage conflict or power imbalances in the group, to ensure that everyone's voice is heard?

LEG leaders: How do you know those factors are working? How do you know the members are feeling safe and supported?

LEG leaders: What training have you had to lead the LEG?

LEG leaders: Do you feel the LEG are representative of people affected by TACSA? PROMPT: children as you are all adults, all gender, race, religion, sexuality etc



**EQ2. To what extent do LEG members feel that the group is survivor-led.**

LEG leaders: What does survivor-leadership mean to you?

LEG leaders: How do you ensure the LEG is survivor-led?

LEG leaders: What would do differently (if anything) to increase the survivor leadership?

**Impact of the LEG on its members, both personally and collectively**

**EQ3. What impact, positive and/or negative, has participating in the LEG had on group members?**

LEG leaders: What have you noticed about the impact of being a part of LEG on its members?

LEG leaders: How do you check-in with LEG members to understand its impact?

LEG leaders: What are you most proud of since starting LEG?

LEG leaders: What would you like to see different in future?

LEG leaders: How do you consider the wellbeing of LEG members? Are you confident that you can effectively support their wellbeing?

**Outcomes within MCF and the wider system as a result of the LEG**

**EQ4. What role has the LEG played in shaping MCF's activities, and what specific changes or impacts have resulted from its involvement?**

LEG members: Review timeline of projects - clarification

LEG leaders: Can you give an example of a specific change or impact within MCF that has happened as a result of something the LEG feedback on?

LEG leaders: How did you support the LEG members to affect this change?

**EQ5. What impact has the LEG had on the wider system?**

LEG leaders: Can you give an example of a specific change or impact in the wider system that has happened as a result of something the LEG feedback on?

PROMPTS: (Outcomes in Theory of Change)

- Lived experience has grounded the development of industry regulation, legislation, policy
- Lived experience informs research
- Engaged society in a conversation about TACSA
- Helps children to understand that TACSA is not their fault and able to come for help
- Increased knowledge of frontline staff
- Enable survivors to access support

### **3. MCF Staff team/trustees FOCUS GROUP**

**Opening questions**

MCF Staff team/trustees: What is your role at MCF?

MCF Staff team/trustees: What led you to establishing the LEG?

MCF Staff team/trustees: What were your hopes and worries at the outset?

MCF Staff team/trustees: What learning did you draw on when initially designing LEG?

PROMPT: funding, level of participation

### Effectiveness of MCF support to enable the LEG to be advocates for change

#### **EQ1. To what extent is the LEG being delivered in a way that is safe and supportive for LEG group members?**

MCF Staff team/trustees: Do you have any observations on how safe and supportive for LEG group is for its members?

MCF Staff team/trustees: Can you provide examples of how the LEG leader actively create a safe and supportive environment in the LEG? PROMPTS: confidentiality, safeguarding,

MCF Staff team/trustees: How do you know those factors are working? How do you know the members are feeling safe and supported?

#### **EQ2. To what extent do LEG members feel that the group is survivor-led.**

MCF Staff team/trustees: What does survivor-leadership mean to you? In your opinion, is the LEG survivor-led?

### Impact of the LEG on its members, both personally and collectively

#### **EQ3. What impact, positive and/or negative, has participating in the LEG had on group members?**

MCF Staff team/trustees: What have you noticed about the impact of being a part of LEG on the LEG members?

MCF Staff team/trustees: Have you noticed about how the LEG leaders check-in and support the group members? For example, what were the outcomes of the Wellbeing Survey?

### Outcomes within MCF and the wider system as a result of the LEG

#### **EQ4. What role has the LEG played in shaping MCF's activities, and what specific changes or impacts have resulted from its involvement?**

MCF Staff team/trustees: How has the LEG's contribution influenced the overall effectiveness and impact of the work of MCF and the outcomes you have achieved?

MCF Staff team/trustees: Can you provide an example of the greatest impact?

MCF Staff team/trustees: What difference does it make having a survivor-led group within MCF?

MCF Staff team/trustees: How would you like to see the LEG develop in future?

#### **EQ5. What impact has the LEG had on the wider system?**

MCF Staff team/trustees: How has the LEG's contribution influenced the wider system?

PROMPTS: (Outcomes in Theory of Change)

- Lived experience has grounded the development of industry regulation, legislation, policy
- Lived experience informs research
- Engaged society in a conversation about TACSA
- Helps children to understand that TACSA is not their fault and able to come for help
- Increased knowledge of frontline staff
- Enable survivors to access support

## **4. STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS**

### Opening questions

Stakeholders: Have you worked with lived experience groups in the past? Do you value the input from lived experience groups?

Stakeholders: What are the benefits of lived experience groups? Why do you seek out input from lived experience groups?

Stakeholders: Can you tell me about how you have worked with the LEG in the past?

Stakeholders: What were your hopes and worries when you first heard about the MCF LEG?

### Effectiveness of MCF support to enable the LEG to be advocates for change

**EQ1. To what extent is the LEG being delivered in a way that is safe and supportive for LEG group members?**

Stakeholders: Do you have any observations on how safe and supportive for LEG group is for its members?

**EQ2. To what extent do LEG members feel that the group is shaped and influenced by the survivors who are its members?**

Stakeholders: In your opinion, is the LEG shaped and influenced by the survivors who are its members?

### Impact of the LEG on its members, both personally and collectively

**EQ3. What impact, positive and/or negative, has participating in the LEG had on group members?**

Stakeholders: Have you worked directly with members of LEG?

Stakeholders: Have you noticed anything about the impact of being a part of LEG on its members?

Stakeholders: Have you noticed about how the LEG leaders check-in and support the group members?

Stakeholders: What has been the impact, personal and professional, of working with LEG been on you?

### Outcomes within MCF and the wider system as a result of the LEG

**EQ4. What role has the LEG played in shaping MCF's activities, and what specific changes or impacts have resulted from its involvement?**

Stakeholders: Do you have any awareness of what difference has the LEG on work/practice within MCF?

**EQ5. What impact has the LEG had on the wider system?**

Stakeholders: Did the LEG have an impact on your work/practice? Tell me about the type and amount of interactions you had with them? Did you meet anyone from the LEG directly?

Stakeholders: What difference has the LEG at MCF had on your work/practice? What else would you have wanted them to do?

Stakeholders: Can you provide examples of change in policy or practice as a direct result of feedback from LEG?

PROMPTS: (Outcomes in Theory of Change)

- POLICY AND INDUSTRY GROUP - Lived experience has grounded the development of industry regulation, legislation, policy
- RESEARCH GROUP - Lived experience informs research
- FRONTLINE GROUP – knowledge of TACSA amongst frontline staff
- ALL - Engaged society in a conversation about TACSA
- ALL – Enabled children to access to support

Stakeholders: What difference does it make having a survivor-led group like LEG to draw upon for their expertise? What is most helpful?

Stakeholders: How would you like to see the LEG develop in future? How could they continue to help your organisation?

Researcher prompts from MEL:

Are Researchers engaging with victims and survivors to ensure their work is informed by lived experience?

Are Researchers engaging with victims and survivors on best practice for sensitively designing and carrying out research which includes lived experience participation?

Do Researchers find the input of lived experience useful in obtaining positive outputs/outcomes?

Media prompts from MEL:

Can we show Media their reporting needs to be improved?

Do we support Media in better reporting?

What is the impact?

Appendix 2: Summary of LEG projects

Lived Experience Group												
Mark Cousins Project Manager 01904 600000 mark.cousins@livedexperiencegroup.co.uk												
2023												
2024												
2025												
2026												
2027												
2028												
2029												
2030												
2031												
2032												
2033												
2034												
2035												
2036												
2037												
2038												
2039												
2040												
2041												
2042												
2043												
2044												
2045												
2046												
2047												
2048												
2049												
2050												
2051												
2052												
2053												
2054												
2055												
2056												
2057												
2058												
2059												
2060												
2061												
2062												
2063												
2064												
2065												
2066												
2067												
2068												
2069												
2070												
2071												
2072												
2073												
2074												
2075												
2076												
2077												
2078												
2079												
2080												
2081												
2082												
2083												
2084												
2085												
2086												
2087												
2088												
2089												
2090												
2091												
2092												
2093												
2094												
2095												
2096												
2097												
2098												
2099												
2100												
2101												
2102												
2103												
2104												
2105												
2106												
2107												
2108												
2109												
2110												
2111												
2112												
2113												
2114												
2115												
2116												
2117												
2118												
2119												
2120												
2121												
2122												
2123												