



Introduction

Do you work directly with children aged 8-11 who have experienced domestic abuse? Do you provide a service that supports them in their recovery from this trauma? Are you looking for more resources to help to support them?

AVA is developing an exciting new app to support children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse with managing their trauma. We looking for your help in the following ways;

- Complete a short survey about your experience and view on digital support and tools for children.
- Register your interest in becoming a pilot site who can support us user testing and reviewing the beta version of the tool.

Survey

[The survey](#) is open to anyone that works with children and will run until 17th January 2022 - it takes approx 15 minutes to complete.

For the pilot sites

If you work with a group of children (aged 8-11) who have experienced domestic abuse and who would be interested in taking part [please register your interest here](#) by 24th January 2022 at 5pm or please contact ellie.cox@avaproject for more information,

We can offer participating organisations or groups a small consultancy fee of £1,000 to cover their costs,

We look forward to hearing from you.

Background & more information

Funded by Comic Relief, Peter Sowerby Foundation and MCF, our children's digital tool is a web application (both as a website and app) that will support children and young people that have experienced domestic abuse with managing their trauma. The first interpretation of the tool will focus on children at key stage 2 (8-11). It has been co-developed with children and professionals steering groups to ensure that the tool is user centred.

The tool will provide resources on trauma and its effects in the context of domestic abuse, and ongoing experiences that they may be facing which aims to help children understand what has happened and why. These resources will be designed in a way that is digestible and engaging to children (in age appropriate ways). It was designed to complement existing support toward their recovery (not to replace vital services).

It will also contain techniques that can help them cope with the trauma symptoms that they might experience. These will be focused on their wellbeing and mental health.

We have developed 5 key design principles:

- Safety and safeguarding have to be incorporated throughout
- It has to be trusted by both children and professionals
- Resources have to be age appropriate
- Design and aesthetics have to be engaging and user led
- It's function should be to enhance, not replace face to face services.

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Where are we in the development of the tool?

The app is built and is currently being tested again with groups of children to make adjustments to the content and look of the app. We are hoping to soft launch the tool in March 2022 and then adjust and refine over summer 2022 with a larger dissemination in September 2022.

Why are we looking for pilot sites?

It's very important to us that the tool is

- useful to the children
- easy to use for the children
- age appropriate
- trauma informed
- easy to use & practical for organisations, professionals and trusted adults helping the children to access it.

We have developed the tool with children and professionals through co-production workshops, user testing sessions, and focus groups, surveys etc – but it's vital that we see how the tool fits into professional practice long term, with professionals who support children every day.

Our ask to you

We're looking for organisations to be given access to the tool and trial it with their service users over 6-9 months. We will then ask you for feedback on improvements you think can be made, particularly around safeguarding risks. This feedback will be given in an online/telephone call or through online feedback form. We are also running user testing sessions with both staff and children over this period.

We can offer sites at least **£1,000** per site to pay for staff time, and will offer vouchers as participants to user testing sessions run by AVA.

We looking for organisation or project that meet the following criteria;

- Already provide support to children age 8-11 recovering for experience of domestic abuse, this can either be group program (such as CODA programme) or 121 support
 - This must not solely be crisis intervention
 - This would be provide in a trauma informed way
- Have existing referral and support pathway for children
- Have robust safeguarding, equalities and data project policies.