

Buddi Tag: Public Involvement Workshops

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Background

- The Buddi Tag is a voluntary GPS device, offered as part of a scheme by Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit.
- Worn for about 6 weeks, it helps young people say no to unwanted advances, pick good friends, and take part in positive activities.
- A small initial study showed that the scheme might lower offending rates and reduce days away from home.
- A larger study is needed to confirm the effects, understand costs, and explore young people's experiences further.



Aims

- Understand willingness to engage with the Buddi Tag scheme.
- Explore how the scheme is communicated to young people.
- Identify what good outcomes look like from young people's perspectives.
- Find ways for young people to be involved in future research.

Creative Approach

Three creative workshops were ran with 26 young people (14-23 - either in alternative education provision, or not in employment, education or training). Drawing activities were used to explore their perspectives, ideas, and experiences related to the Buddi Tag scheme. Each young person drew a person and explored the scenario through writing or drawing their thoughts quietly onto page or by talking to researchers and each other in the sessions.



Key Findings

Willingness to Engage

- Creative activities are important to create open opportunities to share in situations where there can be peer judgement.
- One-to-one or very small-group formats appear more effective for this population due to group dynamics.

Communicating the scheme to young people

- Young people found the context of the Buddi Tag difficult to understand.
- Concerns included the appearance of the tag and how it would be explained to others.
- Worry about need for a cover story.

Good Outcomes from the Tag

- Young people saw the Tag as a way to move away from risky or unsafe situations.
- The Tag was discussed as a way to re-engage in hobbies.

Finding ways for young people to be involved in future research

- CV and career building opportunities, vouchers and engagement in activity are good incentives for research involvement.
- There would be value in having a lived experience researcher who can fully engage with the young people.

Future Plans

- This work will inform a future grant application that aims to involve young people throughout, including recruiting lived-experience researchers to help shape the ongoing development and potential expansion of Buddi Tag use.