

# Neglect matters

## A guide for young people about neglect

### The story of the guide

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#### Why did you write a guide about neglect for young people?

Lots of people think neglect just affects young children, but it is also a huge problem for thousands of teenagers. The aim of the guide is to provide young people with information about what neglect is and how they can get help.

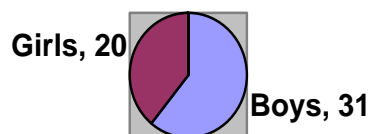
#### Who developed the guide?

The guide was developed by young people for young people with the help of the NSPCC, the University of York and The Children's Society. The Department for Children, Schools and Families paid for it.

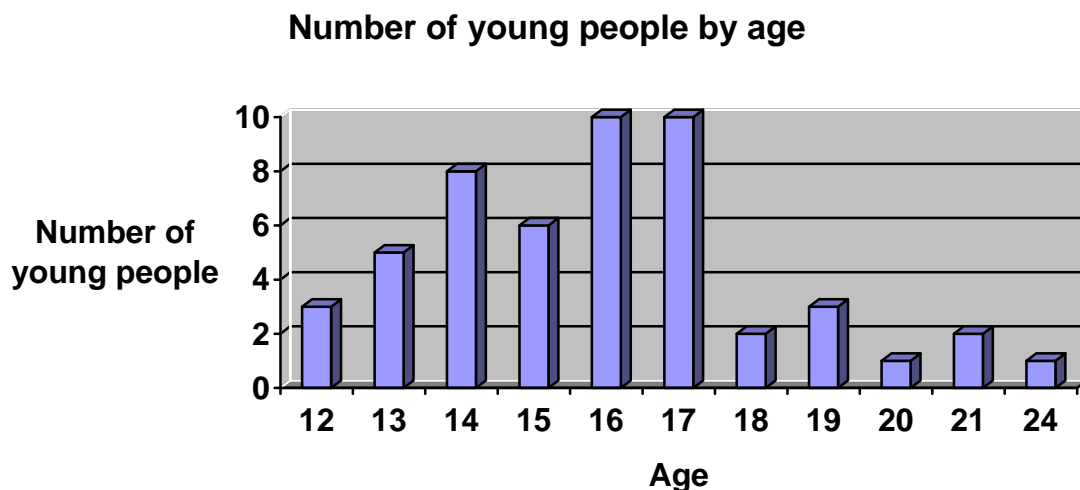
#### Which young people were involved?

- Fifty-one young people were involved.

#### Gender of young people who took part

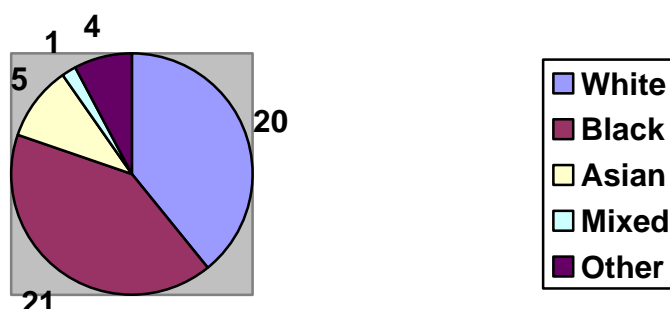


- They were aged between 12 and 24. Most of the young people were 18 or under when they took part in the project.



- In total, 10 focus groups were held with 43 young people. Seventeen young people took part in two focus groups and 26 young people participated in one group.
- The young people who took part came from a range of different backgrounds and experiences – we deliberately included young people who may not often get a chance to take part in research. These included care leavers, young offenders, young people whose parents misuse substances, young people with learning difficulties and young people from a range of different ethnic backgrounds. These groups were recruited via a school, a young offender institution, a care leavers group and NSPCC projects working with young people.
- The chart that follows shows the ethnicity of the 51 young people who participated:

### Ethnicity of young people who took part



How was the guide developed?

#### Step 1: We set up a young people's advisory group

Eight young people took part. They were all volunteers from organisations that work with young people.

The group met twice to discuss how the focus groups with other young people should be undertaken. They thought about what questions we should ask young people about neglect and how these could be asked in a fun way.

They developed the activities for young people to do in the groups, such as role plays, brainstorming and games. They also provided lots of useful advice on things we needed to think about, such as travel arrangements and food and drink for the young people. These meetings took about three hours with time out for a meal.

#### Step 2: We trained young people on running focus groups

Some of the members of the young people's advisory group wanted to help run the focus groups, so we did some training with them. A pack about running groups was developed for them to read. This included the difference between running and taking part in a group, how to make sure everyone has a chance to have a say and what to do if there are any child protection concerns. Three young people went on to successfully co-facilitate groups.

### **Step 3: We held focus groups with young people**

Focus groups took about two hours including a break for food and drinks.

In the first group, young people were asked to think about questions, such as: What is neglect? How can it affect young people? Where might young people get help?

### **Step 4: A young people's advisory group was held**

This was to update them on the progress of the first set of focus groups and to discuss what the second focus group would include. The advisory group helped to think about what questions we should ask young people about the look and presentation of the guide.

### **Step 5: A draft of the guide was written**

### **Step 6: More focus groups were held with young people**

We went back to the same groups of young people to hold more focus groups – many of the same young people took part.

Young people looked at the draft guide and gave their comments. They were also asked to think about what a guide should look like – should it be a paper leaflet or electronic? What should a leaflet look like? What colours and pictures did they like? These groups took an hour.

### **Step 7: Another young people's advisory group was held**

This was to update them about the focus groups and to get their comments on the draft of the guide.

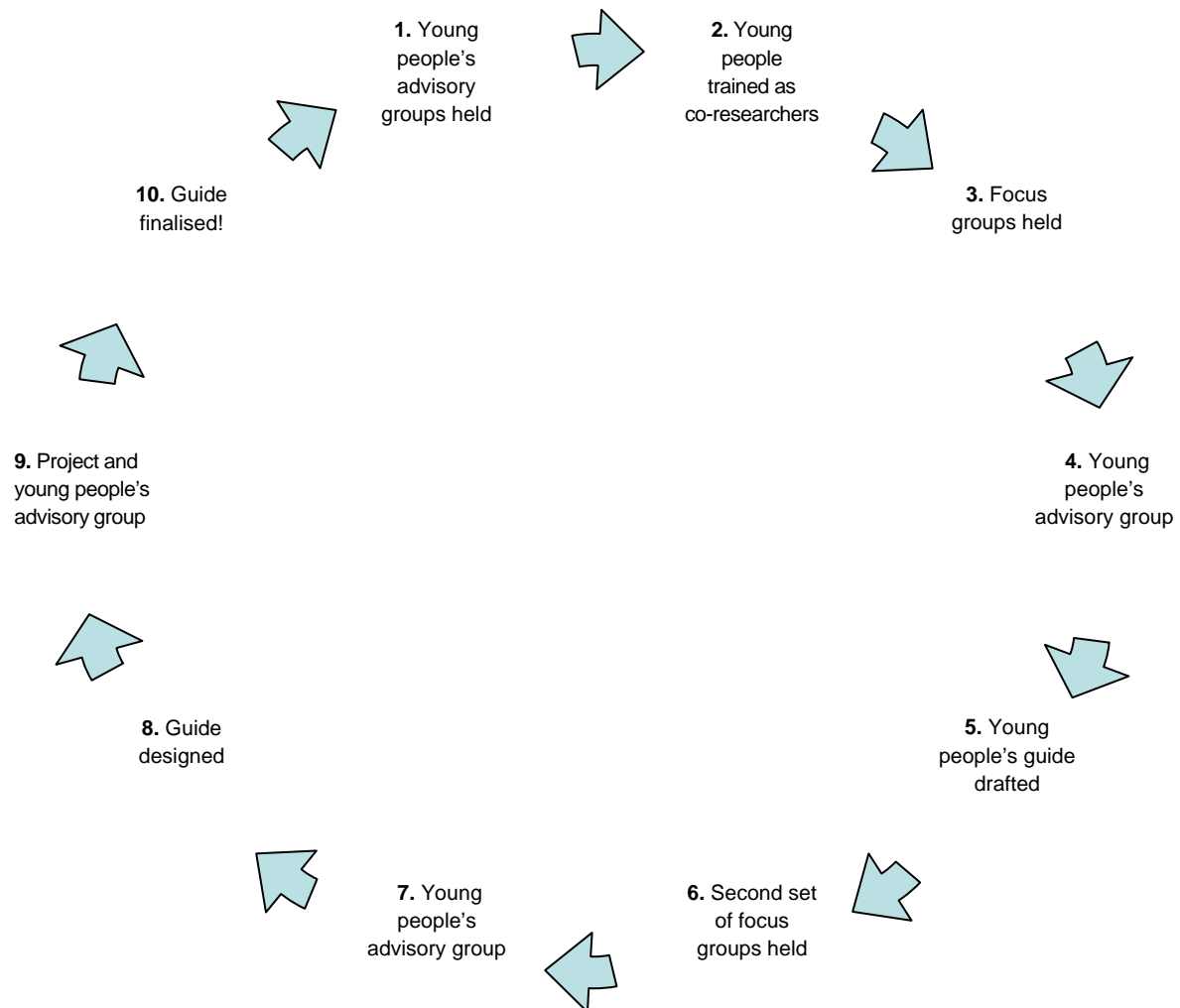
### **Step 8: The guide was designed**

The guide was designed using all the comments and feedback young people had given.

### **Step 9: A project advisory group of professionals and another young people's advisory group met**

These final groups looked at the designed leaflet and gave their comments about it.

## Step 10: The guide was finalised



### Steps taken to develop the guide

Thank you to all the young people who gave their time and energy to help develop the guide and for all the support from those who work with them.

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**NSPCC**   
**Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.**