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| **The role of mobile apps in recovery from sexual violence: a qualitative study**  **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**  You are being invited to take part in a research study. The research is being carried out by researchers from the University of Glasgow, with support from Rape Crisis Scotland. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be provided with a copy of this Participant Information Sheet and the signed consent form to keep. |
| **What is the purpose of the study?**  Rape Crisis services in Scotland have been working to increase the ways survivors of sexual violence can access support and information. The number of people accessing written support such as text and email has grown year on year. Some people find it easier to access support and information resources online via the internet. A small number of research studies have found that survivors find mobile apps helpful, and we would like to explore this further.  We would like you to take part in a study to explore the potential of a mobile app to deliver support and information to survivors of sexual violence. By taking part you will help us understand more about how survivors are making use of digital resources to support their recovery, and gather preferences for a new mobile app. |
| **Why have I been invited to participate?** |
| You have been invited to take part because you have experienced sexual violence and have accessed Rape Crisis services.  All participants in this study must be aged 18 years or over at time of consent.  Up to ten people will be recruited to take part in the study. |
| **Do I have to take part?**  No, it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. Once you receive the study documents you will have two weeks to review these before the Lead Researcher contacts you again. You will also have the opportunity to discuss the study with the Lead Researcher and ask questions before you decide whether to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to complete a consent form.  If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. If you decide to withdraw from the study before your interview is complete, you will have a choice about whether your data collected up to that point will be retained and used for the remainder of the study.  Your decision about whether to take part will not affect the support you receive from Rape Crisis services. The Lead Researcher will not be informing Rape Crisis about who chooses to take part and who does not. |
| **What will happen to me if I take part?**  If you decide to take part, you will be invited to an individual interview with the Lead Researcher which will last around one hour up to a maximum of 90 minutes. This will include time for you to ask any questions and for the Lead Researcher to explain the consent process.  During the interview you will be asked questions relating to your experience of accessing Rape Crisis services and your use of digital resources including mobile apps. You will not be asked to disclose any information about your experience of sexual violence.  This will take place online using Microsoft Teams software, or alternatively by Zoom or telephone. The interview will be recorded, you can choose whether this is audio only or audio and video.  You will also be invited to complete a short demographic questionnaire online; this will collect information about your age and gender. This will be kept separately from all other data you provide and will be retained for 10 years in University archiving facilities in accordance with Data Protection policies and regulations. You can choose not to give this information and it will not affect your participation in the rest of the study.  All participants will receive a £20 shopping voucher as a token of appreciation for your time. |
| **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?** |
| This study will not require you to disclose any information about your experience of sexual violence but may still bring up some difficult feelings. You will have the opportunity to debrief with the Lead Researcher at the end of the interview. Support will be available to you via the Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline after your participation in the study should you wish to take advantage of this. |
| **What are the possible benefits of taking part?** |
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| The information that is collected during this study will give us a better understanding of how survivors are using digital resources to support their recovery and may inform the development of a new mobile app to support survivors. |
| **Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?** |
| All information which is collected about you, or responses that you provide, during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.  Your completed consent form and your demographic data will be kept separately so these cannot be linked. Your interview will be transcribed and fully anonymised. Any identifying information about you will be removed so that you cannot be recognised from it. Your contact details will be kept separately from all other data for the duration of the study and then deleted.  Please note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of serious harm, or risk of serious harm, is uncovered. In such cases, the Research Team may refer this to Rape Crisis Scotland, or other agencies as appropriate to facilitate support. This would be discussed with you in the interview.  All data in electronic format will be stored on secure password–protected computers. No one outside of the research team or appropriate governance staff will be able to find out your name, or any other information which could identify you. |
| **What will happen to my data?** |
| All study data will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (2018).  All data will be stored on a secure, password protected University of Glasgow system. Any use of external cloud storage for interview recordings will be time-limited, and recordings moved to a secure, password protected University of Glasgow system.  Your completed consent form, demographic data and the anonymised transcription of your interview will be stored in archiving facilities in line with the University of Glasgow retention policy of up to 10 years and will then be deleted. The recording of your interview will be deleted as soon as the transcription is complete. Your contact details will be kept securely for the duration of the study and then deleted.  Please read the Privacy Notice will outlines in further detail how your personal data will be used for this study. |
| **What will happen to the results of the research study?** |
| The final report will include anonymised direct quotes from interviews to support the conclusions. All identifiers such as name and age will be removed so that you cannot be recognised from any quotes.  A copy of the final report will be provided to Rape Crisis Scotland to inform next steps around development of a mobile app for survivors. You will be able to access a copy of the final report via Rape Crisis Scotland.  A report of the study will be shared with other researchers.  The final report will also be submitted by the Lead Researcher (Tracey McKee) as part of a postgraduate degree programme at the University of Glasgow. |
| **Who is organising and funding the research?** |
| This research is organised and funded by the University of Glasgow. |
| **Who has reviewed the study?** |
| This research project has been approved by the University of Glasgow College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences Ethics Committee. If you are unhappy about any aspect of the study and wish to make a complaint, please contact Dr Oona Brooks-Hay [oona.brooks@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:oona.brooks@glasgow.ac.uk) |
| **Thank you for taking the time to read this Information Sheet and giving consideration to taking part in this study. If you would like to ask any questions, please get in touch:**  **Lead Researcher:**  Tracey McKee, Postgraduate Student, [0005100m@student.gla.ac.uk](mailto:0005100m@student.gla.ac.uk)  **Supervisors:**  Julien le Jeune d’Allegeershecque [julien.lejeunedallegeershecque@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:julien.lejeunedallegeershecque@glasgow.ac.uk)  Dr Oona Brooks-Hay [oona.brooks@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:oona.brooks@glasgow.ac.uk) |
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