

CALL FOR
CONTENT



FESTIVAL OF ACTIVISM

AGAINST CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

6th February 2024, Watershed Bristol

#BeyondTherapyFest #ItsNotOk



Background

Beyond Therapy re-imagines society's response to child sexual abuse through research, creativity, and connection.

In 2024, 500,000 children and young people will experience sexual abuse in England and Wales. This problem continues to be hidden and taboo. Most will never access support, and those that do, face significant challenges in finding justice or access to a service that feels right for them. The system of agencies designed to support children and families is fragmented and overwhelmed.

Children, young people, and families have told us that they need a different response. A response that can help them to rebuild their lives and create change for others who have shared this experience. In answer to this, we created the Beyond Therapy Festival which combines arts, activism, and research so that we can challenge attitudes toward child sexual abuse and re-imagine society's existing response.



Together with our Festival Partner, The Flying Child, this year we consider what children and families who have experienced sexual abuse need from supportive education spaces.

The Flying Child CIC was founded by survivor activist and writer, Sophie Olson. They lead conversations about Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) through survivor-led training, campaigning, and support. "Society's Shame, not Mine."

The Flying Child Project brings lived experience to the heart of professional and educational settings. Through storytelling and real-life case studies, they aim to improve understanding of survivor behaviour and increase the confidence of professionals in supporting children and adults in a trauma-responsive way.

Beginning in education, The Flying Child is now recognised UK wide, offering bespoke training across many sectors including social work, university settings, foster care, midwives, dentistry, and the NHS.



2024 Theme:

Education

Each year the festival highlights a key area chosen by young people and families. We know that disclosures of abuse are increasingly made in school and wider education settings. Yet, young people and families tell us that the response received in these spaces needs to change.

Nationwide, there is much variation within the education response to child sexual abuse. Approaches differ within classrooms, schools, colleges, and universities and this is creating barriers to care. Practitioners are often worried about how to respond to disclosures and families are unclear about the support they can expect.

This year, our festival draws together the latest research, innovations in best practice and survivors' voices so that we can consider together how we can create supportive spaces for those in education who have experienced sexual abuse.

We invite survivors, researchers, practitioners, and creatives to join our community of strong and emerging voices. We believe we can use our collective power to make the change young people and families want to see.



About the festival

The festival will be held at the Watershed, Bristol on the 6th February 2024 for up to 300 people. The event will be open to the public and we expect an audience of researchers, practitioners, survivors, and anyone interested in learning more or becoming an ally.

We will commission and programme artists to contribute artworks and performances to the event, in response to our festival theme. Panel discussions may be accompanied by a performance or display of artworks. We can offer panellists and workshop facilitators: a pre-meet with the festival team before the day, dedicated volunteers to help coordinate your panel/workshop on the day, and on-site tech support for sound and IT. We will also have wellbeing services and therapists available to support with emotional needs on the day for attendees and contributors.

We are planning this day to be a positive, creative, and joyful space focussed on the needs of young people and families – the Festival of Activism is an inclusive community-based response to child sexual abuse.

Please share this call for content with anyone you think might be interested in contributing.

Our call to community partners

We invite our community to contribute content to our Festival of Activism. We ask applicants to consider the following question:

Question:

How can we create supportive spaces in education for those who have experienced child sexual abuse?



Applicants can contribute content to our festival in two ways:

- **Design and deliver a panel discussion**
- **Run a practice-based workshop.**

We can offer a small fee of £100 per participant for the delivery of panels and workshops plus travel expenses (outside of Avon & Somerset).

How To Apply

Our call is open from **3rd November** to **3rd December 2023**.

You can submit content for the festival in three ways:

- 1** Complete the relevant Google Form:
 - **Panel**
 - **Workshop**

- 2** Complete the **Expression of Interest word document** for a Panel/Workshop and email it to info@the-green-house.org.uk

- 3** Email us a short video (no more than 5 mins) describing the content of your Panel/Workshop (please answer all the questions in the Expression of Interest document (p10-11) and share your video via WeTransfer or Google Drive link to info@the-green-house.org.uk

Please submit your entry by **5pm on Sunday 3rd December**. As we have limited spaces available, we will follow up with applicants the week commencing 1st December and set up an informal meeting with you to ensure the scope of content and style of presentation is in line with the festival themes.

If you would like this information in a different format or if you would like to discuss the opportunity before applying, please contact our Festival Producer Thea Woodrow, on thea.woodrow.davies@the-green-house.org.uk.

Call guidance and further information

Panel Discussions

Partners are invited to curate panel discussions of up to four people (excluding Chair) on themes related to our call. Panels should include a diverse range of expertise, representing research, practice, and survivor voice. We are looking to programme up to three engaging and inspiring panels of around 1 hour 30 minutes (50 minutes of content, 20 minutes of questions). Panels should focus broadly on the

festival theme (see page 8) and aim to share with the audience the expertise of panellists as part of a conversation – rather than PowerPoint presentations. See the example Panel description on page 10 for an example of the kind of format required. The remaining time within the Panel (20 minutes) will be dedicated to a performance piece which will be identified by the Festival Team and discussed with Panellists in advance.

Workshops

Workshop spaces are dedicated to skills exchange and should be practice-based. We want our festival attendees to experience what an effective response to child sexual abuse in education looks like day-to-day. Workshop spaces are ideal for practitioners and victims/survivors with creative arts expertise that could be transferred into educational settings e.g., art therapy, music therapy, peer

support skills, trauma-informed yoga. Workshops can also focus on skills exchange for practitioners working in the sexual violence sector (e.g., consent-based training, handling disclosures). Workshops will run for around an hour and should be facilitated by a minimum of two people and a maximum of three. See the workshop description on page 11 for an example of the kind of format required.

Exploring our festival theme

Our festival explores how we can build safe and supportive responses for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse within education settings.

We believe in the power of creativity and connection within our community of young people, families, and allies to transform the existing response.



To understand our approach, you can watch the video of last year's festival by clicking [here](#).

Content for panel discussions and workshops should reflect key areas within our festival theme identified by young people and families:

- Prevention of sexual abuse within education settings
- Dealing with disclosures in educational spaces
- Healthy relationships & consent-based education programmes
- Improving the policy and systems level educational response
- Building inclusive educational spaces for sexual abuse victims and survivors
- Support services within education settings e.g., whole school responses, integrated services, community-based responses
- Victim/survivor and Parent/Carer-led responses within education

Example abstract format

Panel discussion example

Keeping secrets: Is the criminal justice system perpetuating silence?

In 2021, rape prosecutions and convictions in England and Wales hit a record-breaking low. Every day victims and survivors who report to the police are being told they can't have therapy while the criminal case is ongoing - this simply is not true. As it currently stands victims and survivors cannot get justice or access mental health support. Why? We guide the audience through the criminal justice journey, from report to court and how to find

pre-trial therapy services along the way. Panellists discuss the ways the system is letting us down, what needs to change to make the system work and how to improve access to care. The panel includes QC (Chair), Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Manager, Researcher, Detective Inspector RASSO, Crown Prosecution Service Prosecutor, CEO of Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service, Pre-trial therapist/clinician.

Workshop example

Connection through creativity: a writing workshop for sexual abuse

[Name of workshop leader] is a creative arts therapist and *[Name of workshop leader]* an award-winning poet. They will be reflecting on how they work in creative ways in a clinical setting with children/young people who have experienced sexual abuse. They guide you through activities run in their groups, sharing simple evidence-based techniques designed to build compassion, self-belief, and resilience through the art of creative writing. Participants are encouraged to bring a notepad and pen. Suitable for all attendees.

Panel Expression of Interest Form

Title of panel	<i>Please provide the title of your panel (max 50 words)</i>
Lead contact	<i>(This should be the Chair of your panel if you are sourcing your own)</i>
Lead contact email address	
Panel Chair	<i>Do you require us to find a Chair for your panel? Yes/No If no, please provide contact details of your Chair above</i>
Panel members	List the name and email address of your panel members plus a one-line biography summarising their role and expertise for our programme
<i>Panel member 1</i>	
<i>Panel member 2</i>	
<i>Panel member 3</i>	
<i>Panel member 4</i>	
<i>Panel member 5</i>	
<i>Panel member 6</i>	
Abstract	<i>Please provide a description of your panel's topic of choice and the content you intend to cover (See example above for further guidance) (Max 200 words)</i>
Travel	<i>Are you travelling from outside Avon & Somerset? Yes/No If yes, do you require a contribution to travel expenses Yes/No If yes, please identify which panel members require assistance with travel costs and our administrative team will be in touch</i>
Other	<i>Please let us know of any access requirements you may have</i>

Workshop Expression of Interest Form

Title of workshop	<i>Please provide the title of your workshop (max 50 words)</i>
Lead contact	<i>Please specify a lead contact name and email address</i>
Workshop facilitators <i>Facilitator 1</i> <i>Facilitator 2</i>	<i>List the name and email address of your workshop leaders plus a one-line biography summarising their role and expertise for our programme</i>
Abstract	<i>Please provide a description of your workshop topic of choice and the content you intend to cover (See example above for further guidance) (Max 200 words)</i>
Materials	<i>Please specify any space requirements or materials/resources that are relevant to your workshop</i>
Capacity	<i>Please specify the maximum number of participants that can attend your workshop, whether it is an open or closed space and any other safety requirements</i>
Travel	<i>Are you travelling from outside Avon & Somerset? Yes/No</i> <i>If yes, do you require a contribution to travel expenses Yes/No</i> <i>If yes, please identify which panel members require assistance with travel costs and our administrative team will be in touch</i>
Other	<i>Please let us know of any access requirements you may have</i>