

## Ethical Standards in Youth Engagement Research and Projects

Whilst not a member of a specific ethics body, Silver Lined Horizons (SLH) adheres to the MSR codes of conduct. The principles of ethics listed below are taken from these.

**1. SLH shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure that participants are in no way harmed or adversely affected as a direct result of their participation in research or a project.** Practical examples of this:

- SLH will always put participant wellbeing ahead of project outcome, for example by ending an activity that was creating distress
- SLH would never give identifying data about a research/project participant to anyone outside of SLH including to any person involved in providing care or a service to the participant

**2. SLH will protect the confidentiality of participants by not sharing the personal information of any research or project participant with any outside bodies, including with the commissioner of the research or project, without explicit and written consent from the participant.** It is the responsibility of the project lead to ensure this consent is gained. Practical examples of this:

- A social worker is concerned about a quote from a service user in a report of engagement prepared by Silver Lined Horizons and wishes to have their details to follow up: SLH would not provide their details. If the issue shared constituted a safeguarding concern, SLH will have followed our own process to respond to this.

**3. SLH will protect the anonymity of project and research participants** ensuring the anonymization processes are effective, especially where sample sizes are small or where information contains sufficient contextual detail such as participant attributes to enable identification.

**4. SLH will always include within the research or project reports the methodology so as to enable the assessment of the validity of the findings and/or recommendations.** Project leads will always be named and contact details provided within reports to provide any further technical information.

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