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# Evaluating a school-based programme to prevent offending behaviour among young people

| Submission date | Recruitment status | [_] Prospectively registered |
|---|---|---|
| 16/06/2021 | No longer recruiting | [_] Protocol |
| **Registration date** | **Overall study status** | [_] Statistical analysis plan |
| 16/06/2021 | Completed | [X] Results |
| **Last Edited** | **Condition category** | [_] Individual participant data |
| 15/03/2023 | Other | |

## Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
The programme to be evaluated here is a universal life skills education programme. It is designed to help young people make safer and healthier choices and reduce offending behaviours including hate, knife, drug and alcohol-related crime. The aim of this study is to find out whether the DARE25 programme is associated with more prosocial behaviour among participating Year 6 pupils.

Who can participate?
Year 6 pupils at recruited primary schools in England

What does the study involve?
Participating schools are randomly allocated to the intervention group or the control group. In the treatment group Year 6 pupils will participate in ten one-hour lessons delivered by a trained DARE officer. The lessons will take place in the child's regular classroom. The class teacher and classroom assistants will be present, although the session is led by the DARE officer. The lessons will involve a combination of role play, age-related scenarios, group skills sessions, discussion groups, reading and writing exercises and/or other interactive methods. The control group schools operate on a 'business-as-usual' basis and receive the DARE 25 programme after the end of the study.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Pupils may benefit from improved confidence in decision making. The intervention is delivered in school with the class teacher present. This environment reduces the risk of harm to participating pupils.

When did the study start and how long does it last?
October 2019 to July 2021

Who is funding the study?
Youth Endowment Foundation (UK)

Who is the main contact?
Martin Culliney (M.Culliney@shu.ac.uk)
Peter Moyes (peter@lifeskills-education.co.uk)

# Contact information

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Scientific

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# Additional identifiers

# Study information

### Scientific Title
Evaluation of DARE 25: a clustered randomised controlled trial of a school-based programme to prevent offending behaviour among young people

### Acronym
DARE 25

## Study objectives
That completion of the DARE25 programme is associated with more prosocial behaviour among participating Year 6 pupils as measured by the primary and secondary outcome measures.

## Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

## Ethics approval(s)
Approved 23/10/2020, by the Sheffield Hallam University ethical review committee (Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, S1 1AY, UK; Tel: not available; ethicssupport@shu.ac.uk), ref: ER27796305

## Primary study design
Interventional

## Study design
Cluster randomized trial

## Study type(s)
Prevention

## Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Offending behaviours including hate, knife, drug and alcohol-related crime

## Interventions
This efficacy trial uses a two-arm, two-level design, with pupils clustered into schools. The unit of randomisation is the school. Schools were randomly allocated to the treatment or control group at two separate times: December 2020 for Cohort A, and March 2021 for Cohort B. Delivery was scheduled for Spring (Cohort A) and Summer (Cohort B) terms of 2021, but due to COVID-19 school closures all delivery was moved to the Summer term (April-July 2021).

In the treatment group Year 6 pupils will participate in ten one-hour lessons delivered by a trained DARE officer. The lessons will take place in the child’s regular classroom. The class teacher and classroom assistants will be present, although the session is led by the DARE officer. The lessons will involve a combination of role play, age-related scenarios, group skills sessions, discussion groups, reading and writing exercises and/or other interactive methods. This is followed by a graduation ceremony that is held in school.

The control group schools operate on a 'business-as-usual' basis and receive the DARE 25 programme after the end of the study.

## Intervention Type
Behavioural

## Primary outcome(s)
Prosocial behaviour measured using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) at baseline and 3-8 months later

## Key secondary outcome(s)

Prosocial behaviour measured using the Problem Behaviour Frequency Scale (PBFS) at baseline and 3-8 months later

### Completion date
28/07/2021

## Eligibility

### Key inclusion criteria
The intervention is aimed at Year 6 pupils and is intended to be delivered in class. In recruited schools it is expected that the entire Year 6 cohort participates, with the exception of pupils withdrawn by their parents or carers. As such, there was no screening of individual participants.

### Participant type(s)
Other

### Healthy volunteers allowed
No

### Age group
Child

### Sex
All

### Total final enrolment
3881

### Key exclusion criteria
Not in Year 6 during the 2020/21 school year

### Date of first enrolment
01/11/2020

### Date of final enrolment
30/03/2021

## Locations

### Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

### Study participating centre
**Sheffield Hallam University**
Arundel Building

Sheffield
United Kingdom
S1 1AY

# Sponsor information

### Organisation
Youth Endowment Fund

# Funder(s)

### Funder type
Charity

### Funder Name
Youth Endowment Fund

# Results and Publications

### Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
Personal data will be kept securely in a password protected folder accessible only to members of the evaluation team. The SHU evaluation team will comply with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR legal basis: public task Article 6 (1e)) and the SHU Data Protection Policy Statement. Please refer to the link for more information: https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-this-website/privacy-policy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-research
After the evaluation is finished (in 2022), the pupil data collected (name, unique pupil number, date of birth) will be sent to the Department for Education (at which point Sheffield Hallam University cease to be responsible for the data), where it will be stored in a pseudonymised form to allow future research into the relationship between participating in DARE 25, educational attainment and criminal records. All personal data will be deleted at this stage. No pupils will be individually identifiable in the data archived. For more detail please see: https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/YEF_Data_Guidance_Participants_Nov2020.pdf

### IPD sharing plan summary
Stored in repository

### Study outputs

| Output type | Details | Date created | Date added | Peer reviewed? | Patient-facing? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Funder report results | | 01/09/2022 | 15/03/2023 | No | No |
| Participant information sheet | | | 08/07/2021 | No | Yes |