

Centering children in research to understand sexual exploitation

Helen Veitch, Oak Fellow on Children's
Participation in Preventing Sexual Violence

The International Centre

- **Committed to increasing understanding of, and improving responses to child sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking in local, national and international contexts.**
- **Achieved through:**
 - **academic rigour and research excellence**
 - **collaborative and partnership based approaches to applied social research**
 - **meaningful and ethical engagement of children and young people**

Children's participation is

"the process of sharing decisions which affect one's life and the life of the community in which one lives. It is a means by which democracy is built and it is a standard against which democracies should be measured."

Roger Hart, 1995

Participation for children affected by sexual violence...

“...the primary concern is about protecting [them] from society rather than considering the opportunities for them to participate in it”

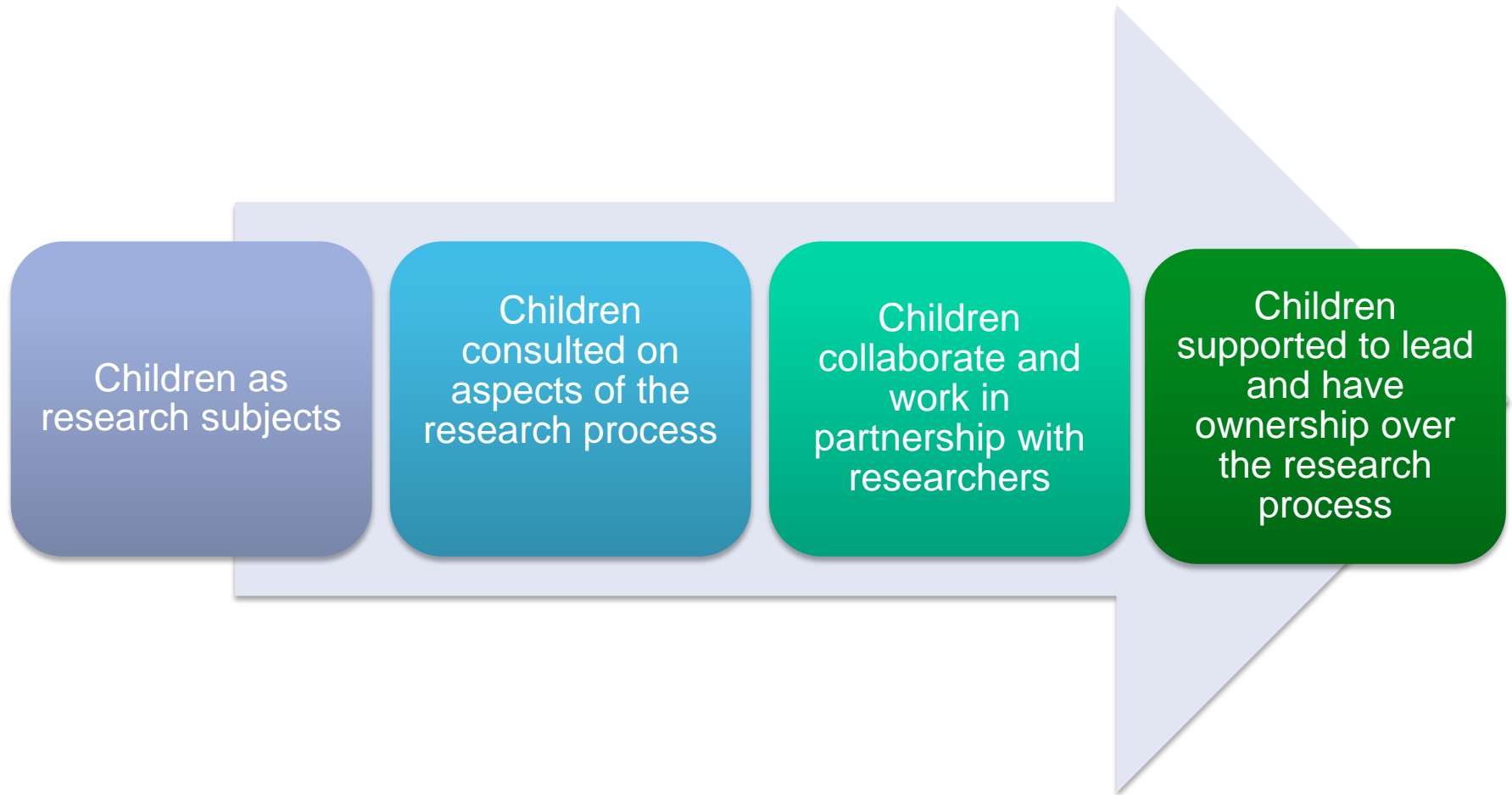
Afua Twam Danso Imoh, 2005

Children's participation is

“Before, I saw what I had been through as a weakness – a horrible part of my life. Well it is still a horrible part but now I can use my experiences for good..... I’ve gone from the person who is coming here to ask for help for me, to someone who’s coming to help other young people.”

Maisy, 2013, from the ‘Be Healthy’ Project

Levels of participation in research (Shaw, Brady and Davey, 2011)



Continuum of children's participation (Lansdown and O'Kane, 2016)

CONSULTATIVE

- Adults seek children and young people's views and perspectives to build knowledge and understanding of children and young people's lives and experiences. It is an adult-initiated and led process that values children and young people's perspectives and offers them opportunities for influence

COLLABORATIVE

- Adults work in varying degrees of partnership with children and young people as collaborators. Opportunities are created for children and young people to take active roles influencing the design and processes of projects and sharing decision-making. Projects remain adult initiated although their early development may be informed by children and young people.

CHILD-LED

- Opportunities and resources enable children to initiate their own projects groups and activities. Processes are owned and led by children and young people, although adults may be invited to facilitate and support them with aspects of their work.

Eliciting young people's views



Being Heard : global scoping

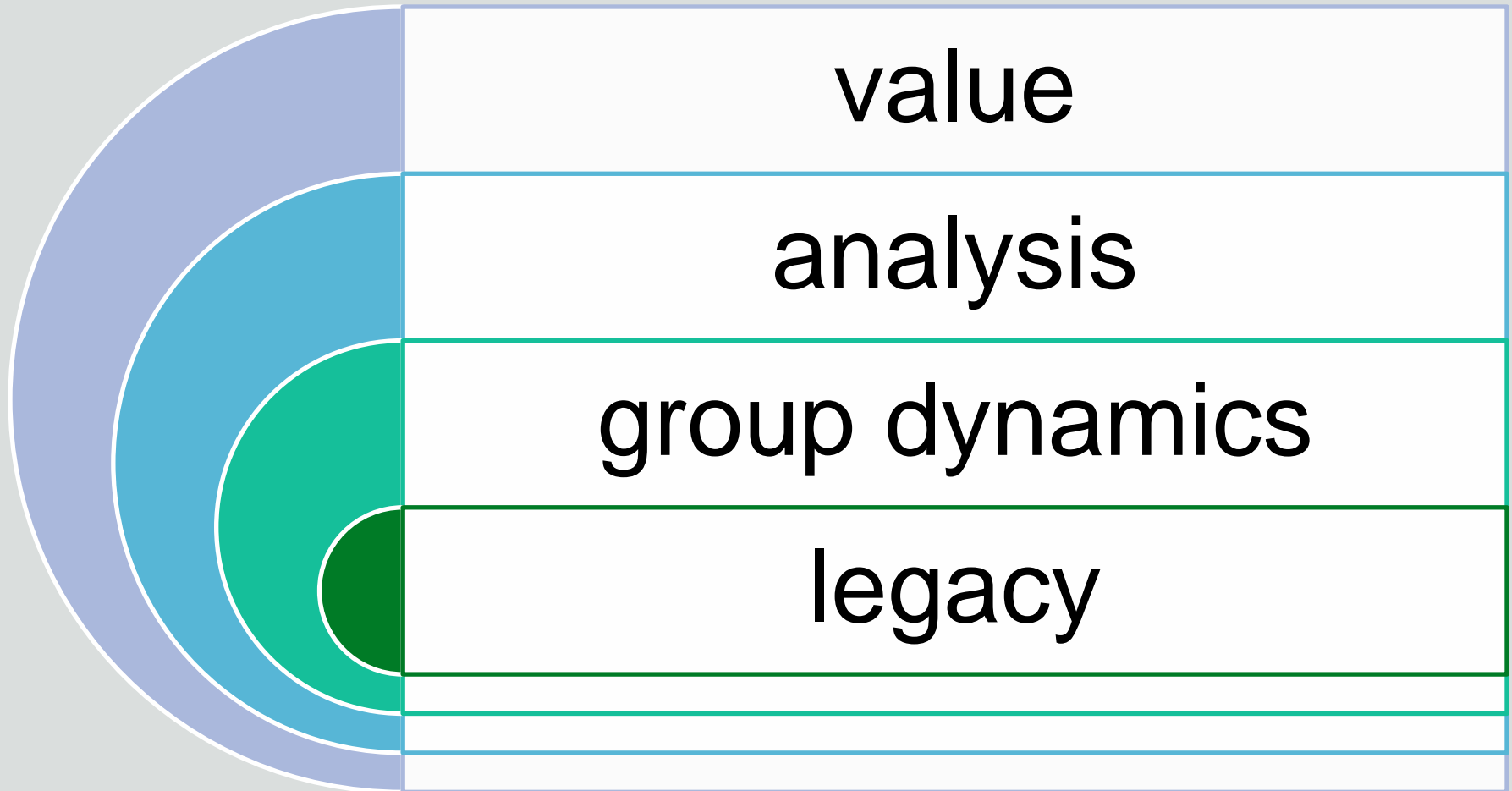
Aim:

- Gather evidence relating to children and young people's engagement in research on sexual violence.

Methods:

- Review academic and grey literature;
- Elicit data through a call for evidence;
- Conduct key informant interviews;
- Consult with workshop participants at SVRI Forum 2017.

Interesting bits....



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