



The Cochrane Public Health Group Proposal for a new Cochrane Review

Please complete and email this form to jdoyle@vichealth.vic.gov.au
[Jodie Doyle, Review Group Co-ordinator, Cochrane Public Health Group, c/o VicHealth, 15-31
Pelham St, Carlton Sth, 3053 PH. +61 3 9667 1336 Fax: +61 3 9667 1375]

Authors completing this form must note that they are required to read and follow The Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions in preparing their review <http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane/handbook/hbook.htm>
Please also see the *Notes for Review Authors Completing the Title Registration Form* at the end of this form to help you to complete all sections.
Write your responses below in the grey shaded areas.

Proposed Title (Using Standard Format - see Cochrane [Handbook section 4.2.1](#))

Interventions to promote reintegration and reduce harmful behaviour and lifestyles in street children and young people

Contact Author Name

Esther Coren

Senior Lecturer & Research Coordinator, Research Centre for Children, Families and Communities
Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1QU, United Kingdom

Esther.coren@canterbury.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)1227 782532

Fax: +44 (0)1227 863462

Motivation for the Review (why do you want to undertake this review)

The review is the result of a call for evidence from the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3IE). The authors wish to contribute to the evidence base in this important area of service delivery to a vulnerable group worldwide.

Description of proposal

(a) Objective

To evaluate and summarise the effectiveness of interventions that promote reintegration of street children and young people, and reduce harms associated with early sexual activity, substance misuse, increase literacy and numeracy and promote mental health including self esteem among street children and young people.

Furthermore to explore what can be known about the processes of successful intervention and models of change in this area, and understand how intervention effectiveness may vary in different contexts.

(b) Rationale for review (what is the *need* for this review?)

Numbers of street children worldwide are estimated at around 100 million (UNICEF, 2002). The definition of 'street children' can overlap with other categories such as runaways and homeless youth, children who have been trafficked, child labourers, migrant children, children who live in slums and children living in institutions (UNICEF, 2005; Ennew & Swart-Kruger, 2003).

Important risk factors are physical and sexual abuse, literacy and work, sex tourism and HIV. (e.g., West, 2003; Ennew 2000). Some street children face particularly dangerous situations, not only sexual exploitation but also organised killings. Activities referred to in the European context are begging, prostitution, sexual abuse, and complex social exclusion¹. Many street children experience health difficulties, coercion and control by adult gangs, criminality and lack of education (West, 2003). The rationale for this review is to assess the effectiveness of interventions for improving these negative outcomes for street children and homeless young people and reducing the risks of the most adverse outcomes, to promote integration into education, training and employment opportunities, and more healthy and settled lifestyles.

By addressing the above mentioned outcomes, we explicitly aim to synthesise the evidence on reintegration approaches, including harm-reduction) programmes. We propose to focus on reintegration and harm reduction interventions targeted at children and young people while they are living on the streets.

We believe that the results of a systematic review such as the one proposed here may be relevant to a large number of street children worldwide. The review will inform interventions that enable children to live safe and healthy lives, and support their pathways to adulthood. It will also highlight gaps in the current evidence base.

¹ Social exclusion as a term may not be universally utilised or applicable. We are aware of the need to adjust language as appropriate to differing national, cultural and economic contexts, and will do so through the review as appropriate.

(c) Types of study

RCT, CCT, CBA, ITS, Quasi-randomised trials.

We wish to include quantitative intervention evaluations in the evidence synthesised in this review. Even though we do not aim to synthesise qualitative evaluation studies or papers discussing the needs and issues of street children and best practice recommendations, we aim to use such literature in order to identify possible explanatory variables that function as mediating or moderating variables in terms of the relationship between the intervention and the outcome of the intervention.

(d) Participants

We aim to include all homeless persons between the ages of 0 to 24 years, regardless of location, reason for homelessness or gender. Research participants include:

- Street Children
- Trafficked Children
- Child Sex Labourers
- Their families/carers
- Professionals working with these children and their families
- The police
- Employers

(e) Interventions and specific comparisons to be made

Included interventions will be any harm reduction programme for street children intended to reduce sexual activity and substance misuse, and to increase literacy, numeracy and self-esteem, and programmes such as these that promote reintegration of street children.

The preliminary search yielded a variety of RCTs and quasi-experimental studies covering a wide range of interventions, which are mainly conducted in the US. In addition, we found one intervention evaluation of a Tai Chi programme in South Africa (Naidoo, 2008) and one intervention evaluation of a drug rehabilitation project in Cambodia (Guillin, 2006).

Comparison: No intervention or other counselling or educational method targeting individuals or communities.

(f) Outcomes

For the evaluation of intervention effectiveness (a), the following outcomes of interest will be eligible:

- Reduced early sexual activity
- Safer sexual activity including condom use
- Reduced substance misuse
- Safer substance misuse practices including reduced use of injecting
- Increased literacy
- Increased self esteem
- Improved access to education, employment and training
- Improved take up of education, employment and training

Since a recent Cochrane Systematic Review and a systematic review conducted for the WHO have evaluated AIDS and HIV as target outcomes (Naranbhai et al., 2011; Ross et al., 2006) we will not include AIDS and HIV risk as outcome variables. However, we will assess to what degree the included studies of these reviews overlap with our scope/population and if relevant, we will consider the trends in the results of these reviews when interpreting the results of our review.

(g) Other information relevant to this proposal, including a) relevance to developing countries, and b) in highlighting issues of equity

Please provide any information you consider relevant to the proposal

We are particularly interested in interventions in the developing world. However, a preliminary search yielded big gaps in the evidence base, particularly for low and middle income countries (LMIC). Where studies are included from high income countries, relevance for developing world contexts will be assessed.

Review author team and area of expertise

	Name	Area of expertise <i>(please indicate the background and skills of each review author and the expertise they bring to the review team e.g. content, methodology; statistics)</i>
Contact author:	Esther Coren	Child protection social work, Cochrane review and editorial experience
Co-author(s) :	Manuela Thomae	Cochrane review experience, background in psychology including gender issues. Native German speaker.
	Jordi Pardo Pardo	Cochrane review experience, methods experience re: searching and equity and developing world issues. Native Spanish speaker
	Petra Engelbrecht	Petra Engelbrecht is an educational psychologist. Her research focuses on diversity and equity in inclusive education.
	Kabita Chakraborty	Kabita Chakraborty is a research fellow at the McCaughey Centre, University of Melbourne and an honorary research

		fellow at the Nossal Institute for Global Health. Experience in the field of children's rights with Save the Children. Research and applied experience working with street and slum children in India.
	Mirella Veras	PhD Candidate in Population Health at the University of Ottawa & research assistant at the Centre for Global Health, Ottawa, ON, Canada. Experience in updating Cochrane reviews and policy research. Research focus on global health and equity. Native Portuguese speaker.
	Angeles Fiallo	Angeles is a registered Dance Movement Psychotherapist, Experience in working with street children in Argentina. Native Spanish speaker.

Do you or your co-authors have any interests in this topic that could be perceived as conflicts of interest?

Yes No

If 'yes', what are they?

Is this review the subject of specific funding and/or does it need to be finished within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details.

Yes, the project is funded by 3IE. We plan to start working on the review in June 2011 and aim to finish in June 2012.

Has the review already been carried out or published?

No

If yes, where has it been published?

N/A

Roles and responsibilities

TASK	WHO HAS AGREED TO UNDERTAKE THE TASK?
Draft the protocol	Esther Coren, Manuela Thomae, Jordi Pardo Pardo and all
Develop a search strategy	Jordi Pardo Pardo
Search for trials (usually 2 people)	Jordi Pardo Pardo, Kabita Chakraborty (grey lit)
Obtain copies of trials	Manuela Thomae and Jordi Pardo Pardo
Select which studies to include (2 + 1 arbiter)	Esther Coren, Manuela Thomae. Jordi Pardo Pardo, Mirella Veras, Angeles Fiallo
Extract data from studies (2 people)	Esther Coren, Manuela Thomae, Jordi Pardo Pardo, Mirella Veras, Kabita Chakraborty
Enter data into RevMan	Manuela Thomae, Esther Coren, Jordi Pardo Pardo, Mirella Veras, Kabita Chakraborty
Carry out the analysis	Esther Coren, Manuela Thomae, Jordi Pardo Pardo, Mirella Veras, Kabita Chakraborty
Interpret the analysis	All
Draft the final review	All
Update the review	All

Other information

Have you or a co-author written a systematic review before? Yes No

If yes, was it a Cochrane Review? Yes No

Do you have a copy of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions? Yes No

Have you attended a Cochrane Review training workshop? Yes No

If yes, which one?

Esther Coren and Jordi Pardo Pardo have contributed to delivery of Cochrane training. Others have attended training and worked with more experience Cochrane authors.

If no, are you planning to? Which one?

When all members of the review team have access to Archie, we will individually review the online training materials for Cochrane Authors.

Do you have a copy of RevMan 5.1, the Cochrane Review Manager software? Yes No

Have you seen the Cochrane Public Health Review Group website? Yes No

Do you have ready access to email and the internet? Yes No

Do you have access to:

The Cochrane Library Yes No

MEDLINE Yes No

PubMed Yes No

EMBASE Yes No

Do you have access to a medical library: Yes No

If yes, can you order journal articles not held in the Library? Yes No

Do you have access to reference management software: Yes No

If yes, which software, and what version? Refworks

Are you familiar with using RevMan 5? Yes No
Are you familiar with using the databases on *The Cochrane Library*? Yes No
Do you have access to a statistician (strongly recommended)? Yes No

Guidance through Review Group and personal contacts

Are you aware of funding/scholarship opportunities? Yes No
Do you predominantly speak/write in a language other than English? Yes No

All team have good English including one native Speaker (EC).

Provisional dates for submission of drafts to editorial base

Draft PROTOCOL
July 2011

Draft REVIEW
May 2012

Agreement to Editorial Review and Publication in The Cochrane Library

By completing this title registration form, you agree to submit a draft protocol within 6 months of the title being accepted for registration. If there is no correspondence from you during this period, or no draft protocol has been received, the Cochrane Review Group reserves the right to de-register the title or transfer the title to a new author.

By completing and returning this form, you are accepting responsibility for maintaining and updating the review in accordance with Cochrane Collaboration policy, i.e. you will be responsible for ensuring the review is updated at least every two years. If you are unable to update this review the Review Group reserves the right to transfer the review to a new author.

The support of the editorial team in producing your review is conditional upon your agreement to publish the protocol and finished review, together with subsequent updates, in The Cochrane Library. By completing and signing this form you undertake to publish firstly in The Cochrane Library (concurrent publication in other journals may be allowed in certain circumstances with prior permission of the editorial team.).

I understand the long-term commitment necessary when undertaking a Cochrane Review.

Form completed by: Esther Coren..... Date: 17/5/11.....

Esther Coren, Manuela Thomae, Jordi Pardo Pardo and Mirella Veras all have up to date Archie logins.

Details of contact author

Prefix (e.g. Ms, Dr): Ms First name: Esther
Middle names: Family name: Coren
Email address: Esther.coren@canterbury.ac.uk Web address: <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/health/health-wellbeing-family/staff/ester-coren/home.aspx>

Job Title/Position: Senior Lecturer & Departmental Research Coordinator
Department: Research Centre for Children, Families and Communities
Organisation: Canterbury Christ Church University
Street/Address: North Holmes Road
City: Canterbury
State/Province: Kent
Post/Zip code: CT1 1QU Country: United Kingdom
Telephone number: +44 (0)1227 782532 Fax number: +44 (0)1227 863462
Mobile number: +44 (0)7515 191712

Privacy: Hide address details Yes No
Hide email address Yes No
Hide mobile ph. Yes No

Bulk mailings accepted: None From primary entity only From affiliated entities only All
Country of origin: Gender: Female Male

Has this author ever written a systematic review previously? Yes No
If yes, was it a Cochrane review? Yes No

Details of co-author(s)

Prefix (e.g. Ms, Dr): Dr First name: Manuela
Middle names: Family name: Thomae
Email address: manuela.thomae@canterbury.ac.uk Web address: <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/Centres/ResearchCentreforChildrenFamilies/StaffList/manuela-thomae/>

Job Title/Position: Research Assistant
Department: Research Centre for Children, Families and Communities
Organisation: Canterbury Christ Church University
Street/Address: North Holmes Road
City: Canterbury
State/Province: Kent
Post/Zip code: CT1 1QU Country: United Kingdom
Telephone number: +44 (0)1227 767700 ext 3280 Fax number: +44 (0)1227 863462
Mobile number: +44 (0)7599 469303

Privacy: Hide address details Yes No
Hide email address Yes No
Hide mobile ph. Yes No

Bulk mailings accepted: None From primary entity only From affiliated entities only All

Country of origin: Gender: Female Male

Has this author ever written a systematic review previously? Yes No
If yes, was it a Cochrane review? Yes No

Details of co-author(s)

Prefix (e.g. Ms, Dr):	Professor	First name:	Petra	
Middle names:		Family name:	Engelbrecht	
Email address:	petra.engelbrecht@canterbur y.ac.uk	Web address:		
Job Title/Position:	Professor of Education			
Department:	Education Research Directorate			
Organisation:	Canterbury Christ Church University			
Street/Address:	North Holmes Campus,			
City:	Canterbury			
State/Province:	Kent			
Post/Zip code:	CT1 1QU	Country:	UK	
Telephone number:	01227782912	Fax number:	01227863462	
Mobile number:	.....		
Privacy:	Hide address details	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Hide email address	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Hide mobile ph.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Bulk mailings accepted:	None <input type="checkbox"/>	From primary entity only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	From affiliated entities only <input type="checkbox"/>	All <input type="checkbox"/>
Country of origin:	South Africa	Gender:	Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>
Has this author ever written a systematic review previously?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, was it a Cochrane review?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Details of co-author(s)

Prefix (e.g. Ms, Dr):	Dr	First name:	Kabita	
Middle names:	.....	Family name:	Chakraborty
Email address:	kabita@unimelb.edu.au	Web address:	.....
Job Title/Position:	Research Fellow			
Department:	School of Population Health			
Organisation:	University of Melbourne			
Street/Address:	207 Bouverie Street			
City:	Carlton			
State/Province:	Victoria			
Post/Zip code:	3010	Country:	Australia	
Telephone number:	0450997413	Fax number:	.....
Mobile number:	.....		
Privacy:	Hide address details	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Hide email address	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Hide mobile ph.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Bulk mailings accepted:	None <input type="checkbox"/>	From primary entity only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	From affiliated entities only <input type="checkbox"/>	All <input type="checkbox"/>
Country of origin:	Canada	Gender:	Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>
Has this author ever written a systematic review previously?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
If yes, was it a Cochrane review?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		

Details of co-author(s)

Prefix (e.g. Ms, Dr):	Miss	First name:	Angeles	
Middle names:	Maria	Family name:	Fiallo Montero	
Email address:	anguilin@yahoo.com/	Web address:	.....
Job Title/Position:	Dance Movement Psychotherapist			
Department:	.....		
Organisation:	.....		
Street/Address:	100 Robertson Road.....			
City:	Bristol			
State/Province:	.....		
Post/Zip code:	BS5 6JW	Country:	United Kingdom	
Telephone number:	.....	Fax number:	.....
Mobile number:	0791365682			
Privacy:	Hide address details	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Hide email address	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Hide mobile ph.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Bulk mailings accepted:	None <input type="checkbox"/>	From primary entity only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	From affiliated entities only <input type="checkbox"/>	All <input type="checkbox"/>
Country of origin:	Argentina	Gender:	Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>
Has this author ever written a systematic review previously?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
If yes, was it a Cochrane review?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		

Thank you for completing this form.