

The Drug Use in Street Sex Workers (DUSSK) Study

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Study supported by

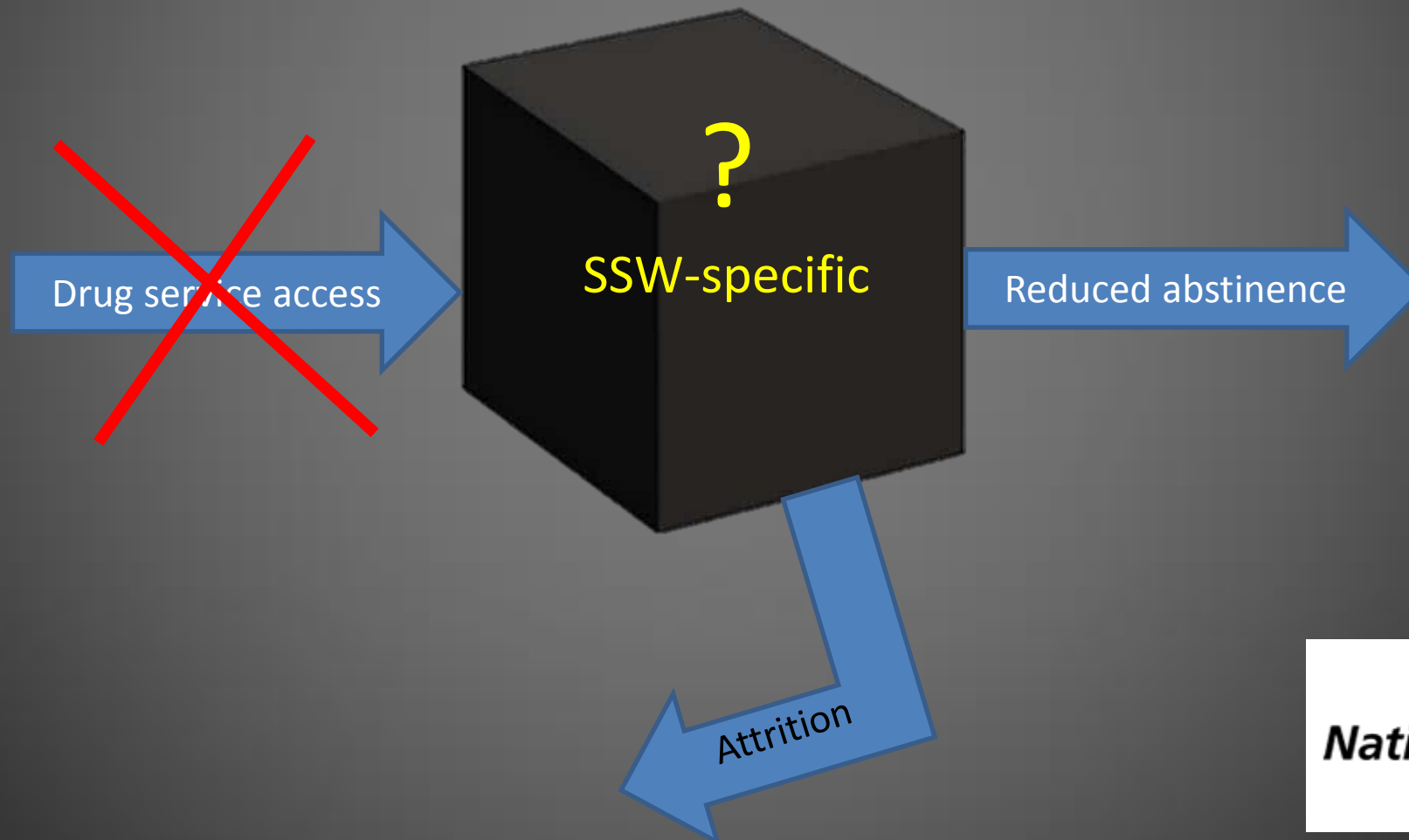
- University of Bristol/NIHR
- NIHR CLAHRC West
- RCF funding UHBT

The DUSSK study

- How is the study important to the NHS
- Evidence base for the intervention
- Study progress/learning to date

An intervention

Drug services



Intervention development

- Systematic review
 - Range of intervention designs
 - Studies at high risk of bias
 - No robust evidence of intervention effect
 - Most studies included health/social care services in site or support to access reflecting complex needs

Jeal, N., Macleod, J., Turner, K., & Salisbury, C. (2015). Systematic review of interventions to reduce illicit drug use in female drug-dependent street sex workers. *BMJ Open*, 5(11).

Qualitative phase of intervention development

- Explore SSW views and experiences of drug services to better understand reasons for poor outcomes
- Triangulate findings with views of service providers regularly in contact with this group
- Develop an intervention to reduce illicit drug use in SSWs

Findings → intervention

- SSW-specific issues
 - Stigma
 - Unhelpful relationships – commercial potential
 - Staff gender
 - Effects of trauma
- Addressed by:
 - SSW only environment
 - SSW only groups
 - Female staff gender
 - Include treatment for trauma
- Taking account of current financial constraints
 - Pre-mainstream service engagement intervention

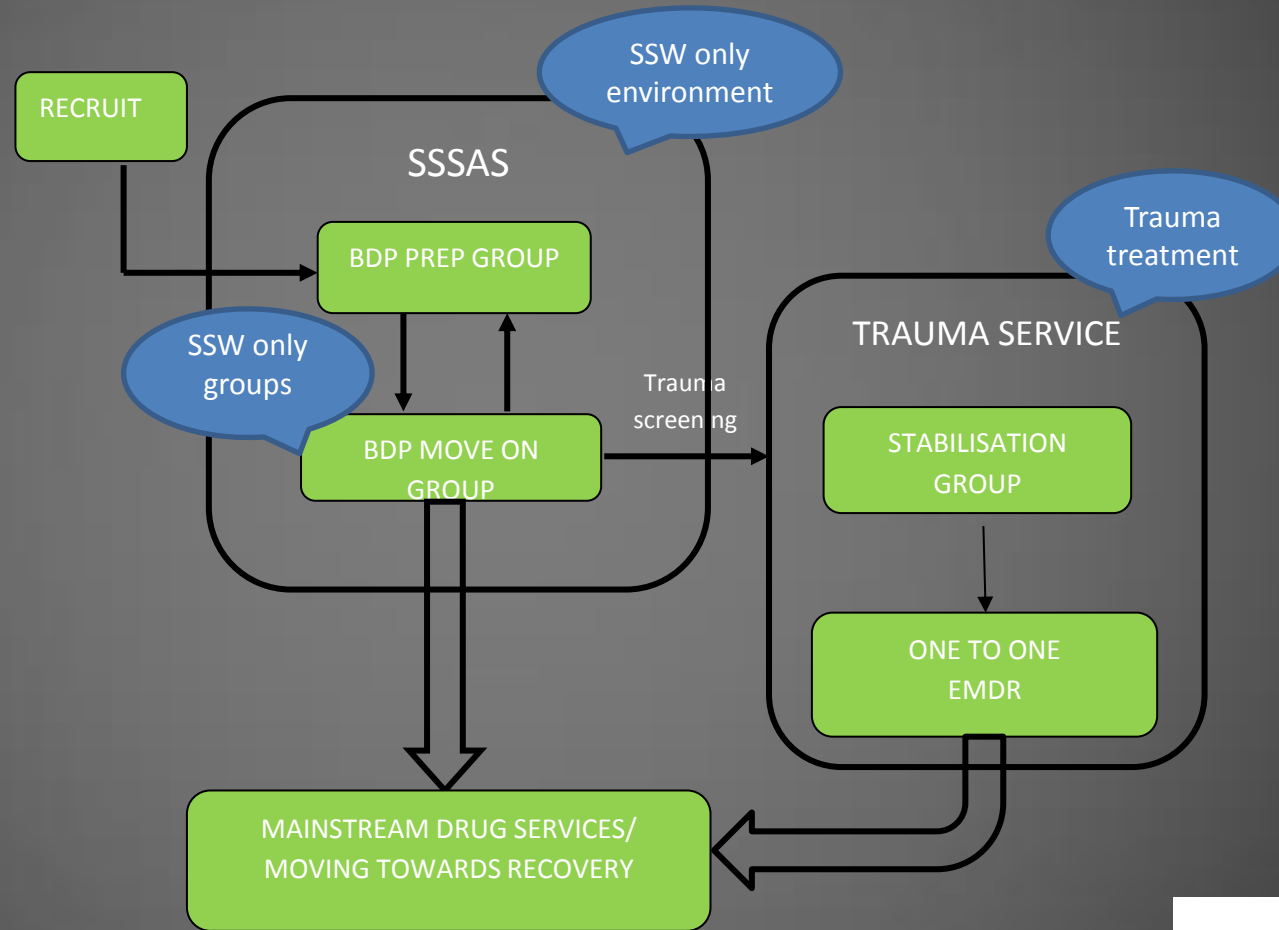
Selection of trauma treatment

- Adjunctive trauma treatment alongside SUD treatment
 - Reduce PTSD
 - Reduce SUD in longer term
 - One to one sessions better effect
- Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing
 - Short course of therapy
 - No homework
 - One to one
- Roberts, N. P., Roberts, P. A., Jones, N., & Bisson, J. I. (2016). Psychological therapies for post-traumatic stress disorder and comorbid substance use disorder. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*(4). doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD010204.pub2

Intervention delivery partners

- [One25](#), a street sex worker support and advocacy service
- [Bristol Drugs Project](#), a third sector specialist drug service that delivers services in partnership with NHS
- [Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trauma Service](#), an NHS service that provides trauma care for veterans, refugees and AWP staff

Intervention outline



Service user involvement

- Advice on study set up
 - Flyer design
 - Direct approach recruiting
 - Payment for interviews
- On-going four monthly input
 - Views on challenges encountered
 - Interpretation of results
 - Dissemination



DUSSK Study
Drug Use in Street Sex Workers Study

Who can take part?
Women who work on the street and use drugs

What is on offer?
Drug treatment groups, only for women who work on the street

When are the groups?
Contact the research team to find out more

Where are the groups?
One25

Why are we doing the study?
To find out if people use the new service and like it

Want to find out more?
Speak to One25 staff or call the research team on 0776 0171 029. If you can't get through, leave a message with your name and phone number and we'll get back to you



Study questions & challenges

- Population engagement and progression through intervention
- Intervention delivery partners
 - Organisation and communication
 - Information sharing
- Exploratory use of EMDR
- Research process
 - Recruitment/retention/data capture
 - How acceptable is the intervention?
 - What is the likely cost of the intervention?

Research population challenges

- Population-related
 - Vulnerable group
 - ethics committee
 - Hard-to-reach
 - population access
 - Unpredictable
 - Meeting inclusion criteria
 - Anticipated 1:3 attendance rate after recruited
 - Non-linear movement through intervention

Progress to date

- All approvals in place
 - Ethics
 - Health Research Authority
 - University of Bristol sponsor
- All partners ready to go
- Planned recruitment from 7th November.....5 months later than planned!!

Learning points

- Involve delivery partners at an early stage
- Engage with organisations at as senior a level as possible
- Make research involvement as easy as possible for delivery partners
- Don't expect things to go totally smoothly
- Don't under-estimate the time & work involved in running the study...have an excellent team
 - Niamh Redmond
 - Jeremy Horwood
 - Jo Kesten
 - Rita Patel
 - Katie Warner

Thank you