

An evaluation of Gateway, an out-of-court community-based intervention programme

Submission date 20/04/2018	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 14/05/2018	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 16/09/2024	Condition category Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

The study aims to determine whether a new out of court programme, named Gateway, improves the health and well-being of young adult offenders aged 18-24, and influences their chance of offending again. Young adult offenders commonly have a range of health and social needs, making them vulnerable to mental health problems. If they are aged between 18-24 years old and have committed a crime, they may need to attend court and face convictions such as prison. However, many believe that more should be done to prevent young adults from entering prison in the first place. The Gateway programme has been developed by Hampshire Constabulary and The Hampton Trust, in partnership with local community groups, with an aim to improve the life chances of young adult offenders. In the programme, a mentor assesses the needs of each adult and develops a pathway with referrals to healthcare, housing support and other support services. The young adult then participate in two workshops about empathy and the causes and consequences of their behaviour. Such intervention programmes are believed to improve the health and well-being of young offenders, and reduce criminal behaviour. However, there is currently little information about how well they work.

Who can participate?

Offenders aged 18 to 24 years old, residing within the Hampshire Constabulary Force Area (HCFA) where the Gateway programme is being provided, who have been arrested for a low-level criminal offence and meet the eligibility criteria.

What does the study involve?

Once charged with an offence, the participants are randomly allocated to either take part in the Gateway programme, or be given a court conviction or other conditional caution. To compare whether the Gateway programme is more (or less) effective at improving their outcomes, participants are followed up for one year. Their outcomes are compared at three timepoints. Specifically, differences in mental health and well-being, quality of life, criminal behaviour, access to health and social care and substance abuse are studied. Some may be asked to participate in restorative justice, which is a meeting between the offender and the victim. The offender has the opportunity to discuss and make amends for the crime they committed. To

explore how satisfied the victims, and those delivering and receiving the Gateway programme, are with Gateway in general, qualitative interviews are also being held. Furthermore, information about how much the Gateway programme costs to deliver will be considered.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The main benefit from this study will be in helping to add to the knowledge about this programme, and whether it helps young adults who otherwise would face a court conviction or other conditional caution. Following completion of each interview to collect study data, the University of Southampton will provide participants with a shopping voucher gift to encourage retention in this population. It is possible that some participants may find it upsetting to talk about their individual circumstances and issues. For those allocated to the Gateway programme, analysing own previous behaviour or meeting the victim may be emotionally upsetting. Details of where support can be accessed will be provided

Where is the study run from?

University of Southampton, University of York and Hampshire Constabulary (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

March 2018 to March 2022

Who is funding the study?

Public Health Research (PHR) of the National Institute for Health Research (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Dr Alison Booth, alison.booth@york.ac.uk

Contact information

Type(s)

Public

Contact name

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Additional identifiers

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

Nil known

ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)

Nil known

Protocol serial number

NIHR Public Health Research Programme ref: 16/122/20

Study information

Scientific Title

Gateway: a randomised controlled trial, economic and qualitative evaluation to examine the effectiveness of an out-of-court community-based Gateway intervention programme aimed at improving health and well-being for young adult offenders; victim satisfaction and reducing recidivism

Acronym

GATEWAY

Study objectives

It is hypothesised that the Gateway intervention will have a beneficial effect on the health and well-being (including alcohol and substance use), access to health and social services and quality of life for young adults who re-offend for low level criminal offences.

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval not required

Ethics approval(s)

1. Approved 16/03/2018, The Hampshire Constabulary Ethics Department (Police & Fire Headquarters, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 9SJ; no telephone available, enquiries@hampshire.police.uk). Approved 03/09/2020; ref: none available
2. Approved 03/09/2020, University of Southampton Ethics and Research Governance Board (ERGO II – Ethics and Research Governance Online; <https://www.ergo2.soton.ac.uk>), ref: 31911.A6. Approved 04/01/2022; ref: 31911.A9

The trialists obtained confirmation that ethical review by an NHS REC, HMPPS (NOMS) or The Social Care REC was not necessary.

Study design

Multi-site pragmatic randomized controlled trial with an economic evaluation and qualitative study

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Other, Prevention, Quality of life, Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

The study population of interest are 18-24 year-old offenders who have been arrested for a low level criminal offence. According to police statistics, the five main categories are: violence; possession or trafficking of drugs; theft; criminal damage; and public order offences. These young adults represent a vulnerable population with a range of complex needs, such as mental health issues and drug and substance misuse. They are more likely to come into contact with the police both as suspects and victims of crime and are significantly over represented in the formal justice process, accounting for approximately one-third of police, probation and prison caseloads

Interventions

Current interventions as of 09/02/2024:

Once charged with an offence, the consenting participants will be allocated to either the intervention group or the control group using a computer program.

Gateway is an out-of-court community-based intervention (OCBI) with three components: assessing health and social care needs (triaging) and mentoring; empathy workshops; and a commitment to not re-offend during the 16 week caution period. Restorative justice conferencing may be an additional requirement. The programme therefore addresses several risk and protective factors, thereby aiming to promote health and well-being for the individual and supporting desistance. The Gateway programme is issued as a 16 week conditional caution.

Participants randomised to the control group will receive routine disposal; that is either a different conditional caution (not Gateway) or they will be discharged from the police station to await a date for their court appearance where they will receive the judgement of the court.

To compare whether the Gateway programme is more (or less) effective at improving their outcomes, as compared to a different caution or court conviction, participants will be followed up for one year. Their outcomes will be compared at different time points. Specifically, differences in mental health and well-being, quality of life, criminal behaviour, access to health and social care and substance abuse will be studied. To explore how satisfied the victims were with this, and on Gateway in general, victims will also be interviewed. To understand what works, where and for whom, further interviews will be undertaken with groups delivering the programme in other counties.

Information about how much the Gateway programme costs to deliver compared to usual care will be considered and take into account any identified benefits of the programme.

Previous interventions as of 09/09/2020 to 09/02/2024:

Once charged with an offence, the consenting participants will be allocated to either the intervention group or the control group using a computer program.

Gateway is an out-of-court community-based intervention (OCBI) with three components: assessing health and social care needs (triaging) and mentoring; empathy workshops; and a commitment to not re-offend. Restorative justice conferencing may be an additional requirement. The programme therefore addresses several risk and protective factors, thereby aiming to promote health and well-being for the individual and supporting desistance. The Gateway programme is issued as a 16 week conditional caution.

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Information about how much the Gateway programme costs to deliver compared to usual care will be considered and take into account any identified benefits of the programme.

Previous interventions:

Once charged with an offence at Southampton police station, the consenting participants will be allocated to either the intervention group or the control group by chance using a computer program.

Gateway is an out-of-court community based intervention (OCBI) with three components: assessing health and social care needs (triaging) and mentoring; empathy workshops; and restorative justice conferencing. The programme therefore addresses several risk and protective factors, thereby aiming to promote health and well-being for the individual and supporting desistance.

Participants randomised to the control group will receive routine disposal; that is they will be discharged from the police station to await a date for their court appearance where they will receive the judgement of the court.

To compare whether the Gateway programme is more (or less) effective at improving their outcomes, as compared to court conviction, participants will be followed up for two years. Their outcomes will be compared at different time points. Specifically, differences in mental health and well-being, quality of life, criminal behaviour, access to health and social care and substance abuse will be studied. To explore how satisfied the victims were with this, and on Gateway in general, victims will also be interviewed. To understand what works, where and for whom, further interviews will be undertaken with groups delivering the programme in other counties. Furthermore, to understand how costly the programme is, the costs spent through each group, as well as the associated health improvements, will be compared.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)

Mental health and well-being measured using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Health and Well-being Scale (WEMWBS) at 4 weeks, 16 weeks and 1 year post randomisation

Key secondary outcome(s)

Current secondary outcome measures as of 09/02/2024:

The following secondary outcomes will be measured at 4 weeks, 16 weeks and 1 year post randomisation:

1. Mental and physical functioning and overall health-related quality of life measured using SF-12
2. Risky alcohol use measured using the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)
3. Drug use measured using the Adolescent Drug Involvement Scale (ADIS)

4. Data on resource use, including access to primary and secondary care health services and social care, gathered using the Client Service Receipt Inventory (CSRI), primarily to inform the economic evaluation
5. Re-offending type and frequency from routinely collected police data

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5. Re-offending type and frequency from routinely collected police data
6. Mortality and morbidity, from routine data for patient admission statistics (PAS)

In addition:

1. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) questionnaire administered at 16 weeks only

Completion date

31/03/2022

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Current participant inclusion criteria as of 09/09/2020:

1. Suspects aged between 18 and 24 years
2. Suspect resides within the Hampshire Constabulary Force Area (HCFA)
3. Anticipated guilty plea (i.e. admitted the offence and said nothing which could be used as a defence or has made no admission but has not denied the offence or otherwise indicated it will be contested)
4. Full code test met (i.e. there is sufficient evidence and it is in the public interest to charge the suspect)

Previous participant inclusion criteria:

1. Offenders within the Southampton district policing area aged 18-24 years who accept responsibility for an offence in accordance with National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Guidelines for Community Resolution
2. Case where there is sufficient evidence to meet the Crown Prosecution Service Full Code Test 1 (Evidential standard)
3. 18 year olds that have previously been engaged by Southampton Youth Offender Service with community based orders in the last 12 months

Participant type(s)

Other

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Upper age limit

24 years

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

191

Key exclusion criteria

Current participant exclusion criteria as of 09/02/2024:

1. Hate crime according to Crown Prosecution Services (CPS) Policy
2. Domestic violence related crime
3. Sexual offence related crime referred to CPS
4. Knife crimes
5. Where on conviction the court is more likely to impose a custodial sentence (based on sentencing guides)
6. Remand in custody order is sought
7. Breach of court or sexual offences orders
8. Any offence involving serious injury or death of another
9. Indictable only offences
10. All drink/drive or endorsable traffic offences
11. Offender already has a Gateway programme flag
12. Offender needs an interpreter
13. Any serious previous convictions within the last 2 years (i.e. serious violence, grievous bodily harm (GBH) or worse, serious sexual offences, robbery or indictable only offences)
14. Summary offences more than 4 months old
15. Persons subject to Court bail; Prison Recall, Red IOM (Integrated Offender Management) or currently under Probation

Previous participant exclusion criteria as of 09/09/2020 to 09/02/2024:

1. Hate crime according to Crown Prosecution Services (CPS) Policy
2. Domestic violence related crime
3. Sexual offence related crime referred to CPS
4. Knife crimes
5. Where on conviction the court is more likely to impose a custodial sentence (based on sentencing guides)
6. Remand in custody order is sought
7. Breach of court or sexual offences orders
8. Any offence involving serious injury or death of another
9. Offences under terrorism or official secrets legislation
10. Indictable only offences
11. All drink/drive or endorsable traffic offences
12. Offender already has a Gateway programme flag
13. Offender needs an interpreter
14. Any serious previous convictions within the last 2 years (i.e. serious violence, grievous bodily

harm (GBH) or worse, serious sexual offences, robbery or indictable only offences)
15. Summary offences more than 4 months old
16. Persons subject to Court bail; Prison Recall, Red IOM (Integrated Offender Management) or currently under Probation

Previous participant exclusion criteria:

1. Hate crime according to Crown Prosecution Services (CPS) Policy
2. Domestic violence related crime dealt with under Project CARA (community intervention)
3. Domestic violence related crime referred to CPS
4. Offenders suitably dealt with by way of Community Caution as an immediate disposal
5. Where on conviction the court is more likely to impose a custodial sentence (based on sentencing guides)
6. Any offenders currently under multi-agency public protection arrangement (MAPPA) case management
7. Breach of court or sexual offences orders
8. Any offence involving a death of another
9. Offences under terrorism or official secrets legislation
10. Indictable only offences
11. All drink drive offences

Date of first enrolment

01/10/2019

Date of final enrolment

13/12/2021

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Southampton Central Police Station

Hampshire Constabulary

Southern Road

Southampton

United Kingdom

SO15 1AN

Study participating centre

Portsmouth Central Police Station

Winston Churchill Avenue

Portsmouth

United Kingdom

PO1 2DG

Study participating centre
Northern Police Investigation Centre (Basingstoke)
Jays Close
Viabes Business Park
Basingstoke
United Kingdom
RG22 4BS

Study participating centre
Newport Police Station
High Street
Newport
Isle of Wight
United Kingdom
PO30 1SZ

Sponsor information

Organisation
University of Southampton

ROR
<https://ror.org/01ryk1543>

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
Public Health Research Programme

Alternative Name(s)
NIHR Public Health Research Programme, The Public Health Research (PHR), PHR

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype

National government

Location

United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The trial dataset will be held at York Trials Unit. Access will be considered on a case by case basis following completion of the trial.

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article		25/04/2024	02/05/2024	Yes	No
Results article		01/09/2024	16/09/2024	Yes	No
Protocol article		19/12/2021	03/10/2023	Yes	No