

Complex trauma psychoeducational intervention for female offenders

Submission date 07/10/2013	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 15/01/2014	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 14/04/2021	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

We are carrying out a study to assess the effectiveness of psychoeducational interventions in female offenders with complex trauma. Our aim is to explore how effective a staged approach is to stabilising negative behaviours and trauma symptoms. We will want to look at a range of individual differences to see whether this has any impact on the outcome. The study's findings should help to improve the well-being of female offenders, particularly those in custody, as well as other survivors of trauma and abuse.

Who can participate?

Women, age 18-70 years, who are currently in prison in Scotland and who have a history of abuse and trauma.

What does the study involve?

The participants will be randomly allocated either to a group-based intervention called Survive & Thrive or a waiting list group. Everybody on the waiting list will be offered a chance to participate in Survive & Thrive if they want to. Participants will be interviewed to assess their level of trauma as well as their experiences of abusive and adverse circumstances throughout their lives. The intervention consists of 10 sessions delivered over 5 weeks. Questionnaires are given at week 0, week 5 and at follow-up intervals at week 9 and 17 and should help record the progress participants make.

At the end of the study, we will compare the amount of behavioural change and other improvements in participants in both the intervention and waiting list groups.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There may be benefits to those taking part in the intervention. There will also hopefully be benefits to those female prisoners in the future because the results of the study are likely to help our understanding of appropriate treatment for female offenders and survivors of abuse in the future. The main risk of participating is that it could be upsetting for some women. Therefore, Survive & Thrive does not ask participants to talk about their own abusive experiences. Participants will also receive any further assistance from mental health staff should they need it.

Where is the study run from?

The study has been set up by Edinburgh Napier University in collaboration with the Scottish Prison Service. Participants will be recruited from HMP Cornton Vale and HMP Greenock, which are part of the Scottish Prison Service estate. The study will be conducted at HMP Cornton Vale, Scotland, UK.

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

The recruitment is expected to start in January 2014. Participants will be enrolled at various times over a period of two years.

Who is funding the study?

Survivor Scotland (UK).

Who is the main contact?

Mr Adam Mahoney, Adam.Mahoney@sps.pnn.gov.uk
Professor Thanos Karatzias, T.Karatzias@napier.ac.uk

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

Mr Adam Mahoney

Contact details

Psychology Department
HMP Cornton Vale
Cornton Road
Stirling
United Kingdom
FK9 5NU

-

Adam.Mahoney@sps.pnn.gov.uk

Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

138344

Study information

Scientific Title

The effectiveness of a Stage 1 psychoeducational intervention versus waiting list to stabilise complex interpersonal trauma symptomatology in female offenders

Study objectives

1. Is a Stage 1 psychoeducational intervention effective for the stabilisation of traumatic symptomatology in a prison setting?
2. Is a Stage 1 psychoeducational intervention acceptable to female offenders in a prison setting?
3. What are the factors that enhance the effectiveness and acceptability of such an intervention?

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

1. Scottish Prison Service, 13/06/2013
2. East of Scotland Research Ethics Service (EoSRES) REC 1, 15/11/2013, REC ref: 13/ES/0111

Study design

Randomized controlled trial and qualitative interviews

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Interpersonal trauma

Interventions

Participants will be randomly allocated to either a treatment group (Survive & Thrive: Psychoeducational material for complex and interpersonal trauma) or a waiting list intent-to-treat group.

Baseline assessments will assess trauma history and level of complex trauma symptomatology to establish eligibility.

Baseline measures:

1. Traumatic Antecedents Questionnaire Revised version 3 (TAQ, van der Kolk, 2010)
2. Self-Report Instrument for Disorders of Extreme Stress (SIDES-SR: van der Kolk, 2002)
3. Young Schema Questionnaire Short Form 3 (YSQ-S3: Young, 2005)

A university-based statistician will assist with the randomisation of all eligible participants. Participants will be assessed blindly by the research assistant on four occasions: before treatment, post treatment as well as at 1 month and 3 months follow up. Therefore, the last assessment will be at week 17. Assessments will be conducted by means of standardised scales.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

Behavioural Assessment Checklist measured at weeks 0, 5, 9 and 17

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Difficulties in Emotional Regulation Scale (DERS; Gratz & Roemer, 2004).
2. Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Checklist Civilian Version (PCL-C: Blanchard et al., 1996)
3. The Dissociative Experiences Scale (DES II; Carlson & Putnam, 1993)
4. Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS: Zigmond and Snaith, 1983)

Measured pre and post intervention, and at 1 month and 3 months follow-up.

Completion date

01/03/2018

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Being willing to participate voluntarily and to give written consent
2. Having experienced childhood or adulthood negative life events
3. Aged 18-70 years old
4. Being able to cope with the demands of the interviews

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Sex

Female

Total final enrolment

44

Key exclusion criteria

1. Unwilling to participate or unwilling to give written consent
2. Unable to cope with the demands of the interview because of mental or physical illness

Date of first enrolment

01/01/2014

Date of final enrolment

01/03/2018

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

Scotland

Study participating centre

HMP Cornton Vale

Cornton Rd

Stirling

United Kingdom

FK9 5NU

Sponsor information

Organisation

Edinburgh Napier University (UK)

ROR

<https://ror.org/03zjvnn91>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Charity

Funder Name

Survivor Scotland (UK) (Ref No. BPS/SPS 1)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	Participant information sheet	01/07/2020	14/04/2021	Yes	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No
Participant information sheet		11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes

