

Group intervention to reduce intimate partner abuse by men in substance use treatment

Submission date 21/05/2018	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 22/05/2018	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 19/06/2023	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Intimate partner abuse (IPA) includes physical, sexual, psychological and financial abuse and/or controlling behaviours by a current/ex-partner. IPA impacts negatively on victims' health. Men who use substances are more likely be abusive towards their partners than men who do not. This study explores whether 108 men in substance use treatment who have been abusive towards a partner in the past year can be recruited to an intervention to reduce IPA, or to substance use treatment as usual.

Who can participate?

Men who have perpetrated abusive or violent behaviour towards a current or former female partner in the last 12 months

What does the study involve?

Male participants are randomly allocated to the intervention group or the control group. The intervention group attend 12 weekly 2 hour group sessions, with an additional 2 to 4 individual pre-group preparation sessions depending on need, along with substance use treatment as usual. The control group receive substance use treatment as usual (fortnightly individual sessions with keyworker). The aims are to find out whether this new intervention is any better than usual substance use treatment with a keyworker, to compare the costs, to explore whether the intervention can be delivered in substance use treatment, and to find out whether men find the intervention acceptable, attend sessions, and stay in the study. The men's' current/ex-partners are offered support for IPA, and are invited to take part in the study by providing information about their partner's behaviour and their own well-being. The man's keyworker and the women's support worker share information that relates to women's safety and risk. Women are updated about their current/ex-partner's overall progress in the intervention. Data on substance use, relationships, IPA, emotional well-being, quality of life and service use are collected from both men and women at the start and end of the intervention.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The study will help to show whether the new intervention helps men who use substances reduce their abusive and violent behaviour towards their female partners. It is hoped that if this happens, it would improve the wellbeing of their partners and children. To ensure that the

women and their children are safe, staff from the substance use treatment service and the women's support service worker will talk to each other on a regular basis to share information that relates to the women's safety and risk. Participating in the study could improve relationships and improve the wellbeing of women and children in the future. The feedback received from both men and their current or ex female partners will help to show whether the intervention and the study can be done. All participants are given the opportunity to get support for their relationship and are provided with a range of national and local contact numbers and services that will be able to help.

Where is the study run from?

1. King's College London (UK)
2. University of Worcester (UK)
3. University of Bristol (UK)

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

January 2018 to March 2019

Who is funding the study?

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Dr Gail Gilchrist

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

Dr Gail Gilchrist

ORCID ID

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Contact details

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

37647

Study information

Scientific Title

Feasibility and acceptability of a randomised controlled trial of an integrated group intervention to reduce intimate partner violence perpetration among men receiving treatment for substance use

Acronym

ADVANCE

Study objectives

An intervention to reduce intimate partner abuse by men in treatment for substance use compared to substance use treatment as usual, will be feasible and acceptable.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Fulham, NRES Committee London (Health Research Authority), 10/04/2018, ref: 18/LO/0492

Study design

Randomised; Interventional; Design type: Treatment, Psychological & Behavioural

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Intimate partner abuse

Interventions

Male participants will be allocated to the intervention group or TAU (ratio 1:1) by site via an independent online system based at the King's Clinical Trials Unit (King's CTU) based at King's College London. Allocation will be at the level of the individual participant, using randomly varying block sizes, stratified by a combination of sites and cycles (18 participants per site/cycle stratum).

The group intervention is 12 weekly 2 hour sessions, with an additional 2 (goal setting and safety planning compulsory sessions) to 4 individual pre-group preparation sessions depending on individual need + substance use treatment as usual (see control intervention).

The control intervention is substance use treatment as usual (fortnightly individual sessions with keyworker).

The trialists want to know if this new intervention is any better than usual substance use treatment with a keyworker, and will also compare the intervention costs to usual treatment. They will explore whether the intervention can be delivered in substance use treatment and whether men find the intervention acceptable, attend sessions, and stay in the study. Mens' current/ex-partners will be offered support for IPA, and invited to take part in the study by providing information about their partner's behaviour and their own well-being. The trialists will evaluate how many of them take up this offer, but estimate that about 76 will take part in the

study. The man's keyworker and the women's support worker will share information that relates to women's safety and risk. Women will be updated about their current/ex-partner's overall progress in the intervention. Data on substance use, relationships, IPA, emotional well-being, quality of life and service use will be collected from both men and women at the start and end of the intervention. It is anticipated that if IPA stops, men's current/ex-partner's well-being will improve.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)

This is a feasibility trial. The objectives of the study are to explore the acceptability and feasibility of an intervention to reduce intimate partner violence (IPV) among men in treatment for substance use compared to substance use treatment as usual. The feasibility of recruiting and retaining men in substance use treatment who have perpetrated IPV in the past 12 months and their current and ex female partners to the feasibility trial will be determined.

To demonstrate the feasibility:

1. of recruiting and retaining men in substance use treatment who have perpetrated intimate partner violence (IPV) in the past 12 months to a trial comparing a group intervention to treatment as usual (TAU)
2. of delivering the group intervention across three regions in England (London, Wolverhampton and Bristol)
3. of recruiting and retaining current and ex female partners of these men in the trial as collateral informants

To evaluate:

1. the level of treatment engagement and retention for men, and explore through focus groups and qualitative interviews their views, acceptability and experiences of the intervention and the study process
2. the level of engagement and retention with women's support for IPV victimisation for female current and ex-partners, and explore through qualitative interviews their views, acceptability and experiences of women's support and the study process
3. the views, acceptability and experiences of the facilitators who delivered the intervention
4. the suitability and acceptability of outcome measures

Key secondary outcome(s)

As a feasibility trial, this study is not powered to determine the effectiveness of the intervention. Outcomes will be assessed at baseline and end of the intervention (14-16 weeks post baseline) for men participating in the trial and their current and ex-partners. The following outcomes will be assessed for both IPV perpetrators and survivors:

1. Depressive symptoms, assessed using PHQ-9
2. Anxiety symptoms, assessed using GAD-7
3. Post-traumatic stress, assessed using Primary Care PTSD Screen
4. Perpetrator and survivor reports of IPV perpetration, assessed using Abusive Behavior Inventory
5. Risk (men only), assessed using Propensity for Abusiveness Scale
6. Substance use, assessed using Treatment Outcomes Profile; Addiction Severity Index
7. Quality of life, assessed using SF-12; EQ-5D-3L
8. Service use
9. Criminal justice involvement

Timepoint(s): 16 weeks post-randomisation (+ window of 4 weeks) for male participants in both the intervention and control arms, and their current or ex female partners.

The suitability and acceptability of potential outcome measures for use in a future efficacy trial will be considered by exploring:

1. Completeness of data
2. Researchers' perception of participants' understanding (e.g. of language and meaning of questions)
3. Researchers' perception of participants' acceptability (e.g. if participant refuses to answer or gets annoyed/frustrated or asks to end the interview)

Recorded for each outcome measure using a predetermined rating scale. Poor completeness of data and low ratings of researchers' perceptions of participants' understanding and acceptability of outcome measures will lead to these outcome measures being considered unsuitable for the future efficacy trial.

Completion date

31/07/2019

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Male inclusion criteria:

1. Male participant has perpetrated abusive or violent behaviour towards a current or ex female partner in the last 12 months
2. Contact with current or ex female partner at least once in the past month - in person, or by phone/ text/ email/ social media
3. Plans to stay in current location for the next 6 months
4. Agrees to provide contact details of current and/or ex female partner
5. Ability to understand and communicate in English
6. Keyworker assesses as suitable to participate in the trial

Female inclusion criteria:

1. Aged 18 years or older
2. Ability to understand and communicate in English

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

Key exclusion criteria

Male exclusion criteria:

1. Current or ex-partner is not female
2. Pending court case for IPV or pending child protection hearing
3. Current restraining order
4. Currently attending an intervention for IPV
5. Declines to provide contact details of current and/or ex female partner

Female exclusion criteria:

1. Pending court case for IPV or pending child protection hearing

Date of first enrolment

17/07/2018

Date of final enrolment

30/04/2019

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre**King's College London**

Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience
National Addiction Centre
4 Windsor Walk
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Study participating centre**University of Worcester**

Centre for Violence Prevention
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Study participating centre

University of Bristol
Centre for Academic Primary Care
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Sponsor information

Organisation

South London and the Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

ROR

<https://ror.org/015803449>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (CCF); Grant Codes: RP-PG-1214-20009

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The data will be held at King's College London. As this is a feasibility study the data will not be available for supplementary analysis.

IPD sharing plan summary

Not expected to be made available

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	protocol	25/05/2021	27/05/2021	Yes	No
Protocol article		11/05/2020	23/11/2020	Yes	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No

Other publications	intervention development	28/10/2021	19/06/2023	Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes