

Links Worker Plan study

Submission date 31/03/2015	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 16/04/2015	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 17/05/2023	Condition category Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

The Scottish Government funded Links Worker Programme aims to explore how GP practices and the primary care team can support people to live well in their community. The Links Worker Programme aims to support people by strengthening their connections to community resources in deprived areas in Scotland. This study is based in GP Practices that have applied to take part. A community Links Worker will be attached to a GP practice and they will help patients get in touch with existing community-based resources that may help them. Also, staff from the participating GP practices will be trained to help people in deprived areas make the most of their resources. The aim of the study is to see whether the Links Worker Programme improves patients' quality of life. It will also see what parts of the Links Worker Programme are associated with positive changes in the GP practices that have a Links Worker.

Who can participate?

Patients (approved by their GP) and staff from participating GP practices

What does the study involve?

Patients are randomly put into one of two groups. In one group, patients go to their GP as usual but the GP practice has a Link Worker attached and the practice staff have Link Worker Programme training. In the other group, patients go to their GP as usual and receive standard care. All participants have interviews with researchers and complete questionnaires. There are further questionnaires about 9 months into the trial. The questionnaires ask about health, wellbeing and the patient's use of services (e.g. number of GP appointments).

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

By taking part in the trial participants will help inform researchers about how access to community resources helps people in deprived areas. There are no risks associated with this study.

Where is the study run from?

Trial study centre: participating GP practices (UK)
Trial run from: University of Glasgow (UK)

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

August 2014 to September 2016

Who is funding the study?
NHS Health Scotland (UK)

Who is the main contact?
1. Prof S Mercer (scientific)
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2. Dr B Fitzpatrick (public)
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Contact information

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Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number

Secondary identifying numbers

v1.1;08.01.2015

Study information

Scientific Title

Glasgow 'Deep End' Links Worker Plan programme evaluation

Study objectives

Implementation of the Links Worker Programme in GP practices serving socioeconomically deprived populations will: lead to improvements in the integration and use of community assets by practices; enhance practice staff's knowledge and capacity and; improve patient-level outcomes of quality of life and well-being.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

1. University of Glasgow, College of Social Sciences, 14/11/2014 (Phase 1)
2. University of Glasgow, College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, 02/03/2015 (Phase 2)

Study design

A randomised controlled trial with quasi experimental evaluation and embedded theory-led process evaluation in three phases.

Primary study design

Interventional

Secondary study design

Cluster randomised trial

Study setting(s)

GP practice

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Participant information sheet

Not available in web format, please use contact details to request a participant information sheet.

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Social deprivation

Interventions

1. A community Links Worker will be attached to participating GP practices, and together they will implement a practice-wide links approach to existing community resources to benefit patients
2. Control group receives standard care provided by GP practices

Intervention Type

Other

Primary outcome measure

1. Patient participants' quality of life, measured at baseline and 9 month follow-up, measured by the Euro-Qol5D-5L and ICE-CAP questionnaires

Secondary outcome measures

1. At baseline and 9 month follow-up participants will complete questionnaires (Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale, Work and Social Adjustment Scale and the Balanced Measure of Psychological need which assesses self-determination in term of competence, relatedness and autonomy)

2. We will assess burden of multi-morbidity and self-reported lifestyle activities (smoking, alcohol, exercise) and health care utilisation including medication, hospital admissions and GP consultations

3. We will assess knowledge of local community resources using questions devised and used in previous similar projects in Scotland

4. Demographic and socioeconomic variables will be collected

5. Staff outcome measures at baseline and 9 month follow-up will include questionnaires (Team Climate Inventory, job satisfaction, MAGPI (Morale Assessment in General Practice Index) and Maslach Burn-out Inventory)

Overall study start date

01/08/2014

Completion date

31/07/2017

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Patient participants referred to the Links Worker by their GP
2. Volunteer staff from participating GP practices

Participant type(s)

Mixed

Age group

Adult

Sex

Both

Target number of participants

150 GP practice staff and 862 GP practice patients

Total final enrolment

900

Key exclusion criteria

1. Patients contraindicated by health or social reasons (such as terminal illness or a family or other social crisis) as assessed by their GP
2. No exclusion criteria for staff

Date of first enrolment

01/03/2015

Date of final enrolment

28/02/2016

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Scotland

United Kingdom

Study participating centre**University of Glasgow**

General Practice & Primary Care

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Sponsor information

Organisation

University of Glasgow

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Sponsor type

University/education

ROR

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

NHS Health Scotland

Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan

A lay-friendly summary of the study findings will be mailed to all participants at the end of the study. We aim to publish in high impact peer reviewed journals, including open access journals and the HTA journal series, and presentations will be given at international scientific conferences. Furthermore, the results will be highlighted to the relevant individual in public bodies to ensure that these are translated into practice as soon as possible. The final report will be published on the Health Scotland website after the key publication from the study has been accepted for publication by a scientific journal, which we would expect to be no more than 6 months after the end of the project.

Intention to publish date

01/02/2018

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The data sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date.

IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Protocol article	protocol	25/01/2017	03/06/2020	Yes	No
Results article	results	01/11/2019	03/06/2020	Yes	No
Other publications	process evaluation	25/11/2021	17/05/2023	Yes	No