

Supported employment in primary and community care: a randomised controlled trial

Submission date 24/03/2016	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 25/07/2016	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 01/11/2019	Condition category Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Health and employment are linked, with good employment having a positive impact on health, and health having a significant impact on a patient's ability to work. This is why the NHS is interested in the role it can play in supporting people back into employment. The aim of this study is to test whether employment support based in primary care services (for example, GP surgeries) can help people who are out of work and with a long-term health condition or disabilities to return to employment. This follows a well-established model of employment support called Individual Placement and Support. Individual Placement and Support has been shown to be very successful for people with severe mental health conditions. We wish to test if it is effective for a wider group of people with any long-term health condition or disability.

Who can participate?

People who live in Islington and Haringey who are out of work and with a long-term condition

What does the study involve?

Participants are randomly allocated into two groups. Participants in the control group receive business-as-usual employment support from the NHS. This is signposting to sources of external advice and guidance. Participants in the treatment group receive one-to-one employment coaching from an employment specialist based within the GP practice. The support is ongoing and continues once the participant has returned to employment. The employment support is entirely voluntary and participants can opt-out at any time. We then follow the participants' progress towards employment, and any changes in their health, for a period of up to one year.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Possible benefits include improved health and employment chances. We do not anticipate any risks above what would be expected in daily life.

Where is the study run from?

1. Islington Clinical Commissioning Group (UK)
2. Bounds Green Group Practice (UK)
3. Somerset Gardens (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
June 2015 to December 2018

Who is funding the study?

1. NHS England (UK)
2. Islington Council (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Daniel Berry

Contact information

Type(s)

Public

Contact name

Mr Daniel Berry

Contact details

Strategy Group
NHS England
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SE1 6LH

Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

16/WM/0031

Study information

Scientific Title

A randomised controlled trial to test the application of individual placement and support principles in primary and community care

Study objectives

Does a particular type of employment support, called individual placement and support, help people to return to employment or improve their health?

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

NHS Research Ethics Committee West Midlands (South Birmingham), 09/03/2016, REC ref: 16/WM/0031

Study design

Randomised controlled trial (individual level)

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Common mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression; and common physical health conditions than may impact employment chances

Interventions

Patients randomly assigned to the control group will receive business as usual employment support from the NHS. This is signposting to sources of external advice and guidance.

Patients in the treatment group will receive one-to-one employment coaching from an employment specialist based within the GP practice. This follows a well-established model of employment support called Individual Placement and Support. The support is ongoing and continues once the person has returned to employment.

Intervention Type

Other

Primary outcome(s)

The primary outcome measure is whether the person has returned to employment at 3, 6 and 12 months after starting the intervention. This will be collected by the patient reporting this to either the employment specialist (intervention group) or to a research assistant (control group).

Key secondary outcome(s)

Secondary outcome measures are to monitor changes to the patients health. These include three common questionnaires that measure: anxiety (GAD7), depression (PSQ9) and overall health status (EQ-5D). We will also measure indicators of being on the journey into employment, such as volunteering; and use of health services, such as attendances at GP surgeries. These will be collected 3, 6 and 12 months after the patient starts the intervention.

We will conduct subgroup analysis, for example of participants with higher levels of mental health difficulties, gender effects, and duration of unemployment.

Completion date

31/12/2018

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Participants will be required to be out of work
2. Participants will be required to have a long-term health condition or disability

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

Patients who are already receiving employment support via another programme will not be enrolled onto this trial. These will be patients receiving support from services such as 'Mental Health Working', 'Islington Aftercare', 'Work programme', 'Work Choice', 'Working Capital' and 'iWork'.

Date of first enrolment

01/07/2016

Date of final enrolment

30/06/2018

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Islington Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS)

London

United Kingdom

EC1V 7LQ

Study participating centre

Bounds Green Group Practice

Gordon Road

Southgate

London

United Kingdom

N11 2PF

Study participating centre

Somerset Gardens

4 Creighton Road

Tottenham
London
United Kingdom
N17 8NW

Sponsor information

Organisation
NHS England (UK)

ROR
<https://ror.org/02wnqcb97>

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
NHS England (UK)

Funder Name
Islington Council (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Not expected to be made available

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes