

A study of interventions for self-harm in men's prisons

Submission date 17/08/2023	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
Registration date 18/12/2023	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Last Edited 03/07/2025	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Results
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Self-harm is when someone deliberately hurts themselves. There are many reasons someone might self-harm. It is commoner in prison than in the general public. There were 47,136 self-harm incidents in men's prisons in the year to March 2019. This was 24% more than the previous year and the highest ever number. Men's self-harm is different to women's, but we know less about treating it in men. Self-harm causes physical harm and emotional upset. Men who self-harm are more likely to kill themselves. Self-harm causes anxiety to families, prison staff and other prisoners. It is expensive for the NHS and prison service to provide treatment and keep men safe. The costs of this are not known.

There is no treatment that has been tested in a clinical trial. Charities, the NHS and prison service have asked for new treatments. Past research into treatments has not listened to the men themselves.

We need to choose the right treatments to test in future clinical trials to see if they reduce self-harm.

We want to:

- Find out what treatments are being given in prisons.
- Understand men's and staff's past involvement with self-harm.
- Find out what they think of the treatments they have had, treatments that are given now, and possible new treatments.

This will let us find treatments that are practical to use in prisons, that men would like, and which might work. After this research we will apply for funding for trials to test these treatments. Future benefits will include reduced self-harm with reduced distress, harm and cost.

Who can participate?

Adult remand and sentenced prisoners with personal experience of self-harm in prison, and prison staff.

What does the study involve?

1. We will interview staff from 22 prisons in England. We will find out which treatments for self-harm they offer men.
2. We will hold discussion groups with staff from up to 11 prisons. We will ask about working with men who self-harm, what might help them and how treatments could be given in prison.

3. We will interview up to 30 men in those prisons. We will ask about their self-harm and treatment they have had. We will ask about possible treatments. These will include education, activities, computer treatments, and talking therapies.

Patient and Public Involvement

A discussion group with 10 men with direct experience of self-harm in prison helped to design this project. One of our team has self-harmed in prison. He has worked on designing the project and will carry out some of the research. Prison staff support this research. They will give us advice and make sure that prisoners can take part.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

While there may be no direct benefits for the participants, being able to discuss their experiences and 'be heard/listened to' may have a positive effect on those participants who may previously have felt isolated and ignored. Talking about self-harm might be upsetting for some participants. In the event of a participant becoming upset or distressed about any issue, the usual prison support systems will be followed. Staff will be able to access the existing support systems available to them via the HM Prison Service, including private support and counselling support. The men in prison will be able to contact their personal officer, inreach psychology team, mental health staff, or a representative from the chaplaincy department. If a man is distressed and likely to self-harm, the prison will follow their usual procedure implementing the ACCT process.

Where is the study run from?

Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust (UK)

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

June 2019 to July 2025

Who is funding the study?

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Research for Patient Benefit Programme (UK).

Who is the main contact?

Dr Louise Robinson, louise.robinson@manchester.ac.uk

Contact information

Type(s)

Principal investigator

Contact name

Dr Louise Robinson

ORCID ID

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6455-1360>

Contact details

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School of Health Sciences
Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health
University of Manchester

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Oxford Road
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United Kingdom
M13 9PL
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Additional identifiers

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

Nil known

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)

262835

Protocol serial number

IRAS 262835, CPMS 56010

Study information

Scientific Title

An exploratory study of interventions for self-harm in men's prisons

Acronym

PrisScope

Study objectives

To understand what self-harm interventions are currently being delivered to men in England and Wales in a representative sample of prisons, and to learn the treatment experiences and preferences of men who self-harm in prison and staff who work with them. This will inform the development of evidence-based interventions.

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)

approved 14/06/2019, North East - York Research Ethics Committee (NHSBT Newcastle Blood Donor Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom; +44 207 1048091; nrescommittee.northeast-york@nhs.net), ref: 19/NE/0129

Study design

Observational qualitative multi-centre

Primary study design

Observational

Study type(s)

Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Self-Harm

Interventions

1. Mapping study: telephone interviews with staff from 22 prisons in England and Wales to identify interventions for self-harm being offered to men
2. Focus groups/interviews with multidisciplinary staff exploring experience and views of prison self-harm and interventions
3. Individual interviews with men with history of self-harm regarding self-harm and interventions

Intervention Type

Other

Primary outcome(s)

Measured at a single time point:

1. Current service provision for self-harm measured using the TIDieR checklist
2. Prisoners' views on self-harm interventions using qualitative interviews, analysed using Framework Analysis
3. Prison staff views on self-harm interventions using qualitative interviews, analysed using Framework Analysis

Key secondary outcome(s)

There are no secondary outcome measures

Completion date

20/02/2025

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Study Participants – Men in Prison

1. Remand and sentenced prisoners with personal experience of self-harm in prison.
2. 18 years or over.

Staff Participants (Mapping)

1. 22 Safer Custody staff (prison staff who manage risk of self-harm), 22 secondary mental health staff

Staff Participants (Focus groups/interviews)

1. A least one representative from prison officers, primary care and secondary mental healthcare, Safer Custody

Participant type(s)

Health professional, Other

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

127

Key exclusion criteria

Study Participants – Men in Prison

1. Unable to provide informed consent.
2. Men where risk to others means that individual interviews could not be conducted.
3. Unable to take part in an interview in English.
4. Men who are too distressed/unwell to participate.

Staff Participants (Mapping)

1. Staff without experience of working with men who self-harm.
2. Staff who are unable to take part in an interview in English.

Staff Participants (Focus groups/interviews)

1. Staff without experience of working with men who self-harm.
2. Staff unable to take part in an interview in English

Date of first enrolment

01/09/2023

Date of final enrolment

28/02/2025

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Wales

Study participating centre**Hmp Buckley Hall**

H M Prison, Buckley Hall

Buckley Farm Lane

Rochdale

United Kingdom

OL12 9DP

Study participating centre

Hmp/yoi Deerbolt

H M Young Offenders Institution
Bowes Road
Barnard Castle
United Kingdom
DL12 9BG

Study participating centre

Hmp Durham

H M Prison
19b Old Elvet
Durham
United Kingdom
DH1 3HU

Study participating centre

Hmp Garth

Ulnes Walton Road
Leyland
United Kingdom
PR26 8NE

Study participating centre

Hmp Humber

H M Prison
The Wolds
Everthorpe
Brough
United Kingdom
HU15 2JZ

Study participating centre

Hmp Leeds

H M Prison, Armley Jail
Gloucester Terrace
Armley
Leeds
United Kingdom
LS12 2TJ

Study participating centre
Hmp Northumberland
Acklington
Morpeth
United Kingdom
NE65 9XG

Study participating centre
Hmp Preston
2 Ribbleson Lane
Preston
United Kingdom
PR1 5AB

Study participating centre
Hmp Wakefield
5 Love Lane
Wakefield
United Kingdom
WF2 9AG

Study participating centre
Hmp Altcourse
Higher Lane
Fazakerley
Liverpool
United Kingdom
L9 7LH

Study participating centre
Hmp Forest Bank
Agecroft Road
Pendlebury
Swinton
Manchester
United Kingdom
M27 8UE

Study participating centre
Hmp Frankland
H M Prison Frankland

Brasside
Durham
United Kingdom
DH1 5YD

Study participating centre

Hmp Full Sutton

Full Sutton
York
United Kingdom
YO41 1PS

Study participating centre

Hmp & Yoi Hindley (j/yoi)

Gibson Street
Bickershaw
Wigan
United Kingdom
WN2 5TH

Study participating centre

Hmp Lancaster Farms Idts

Lancaster Farms
Stone Row Head
Lancaster
United Kingdom
LA1 3QZ

Study participating centre

Hmp Lindholme

Bawtry Road
Hatfield Woodhouse
Lindholme
Doncaster
United Kingdom
DN7 6EE

Study participating centre

Hmp Liverpool

68 Hornby Road
Liverpool

United Kingdom
L9 3DF

Study participating centre

Hmp Wymott
Ulmes Walton Lane
Leyland
United Kingdom
PR26 8LW

Study participating centre

Hmp Bedford
St. Loyes Street
Bedford
United Kingdom
MK40 1HG

Study participating centre

Hmp Berwyn
Health and Wellbeing Centre
Bridge Road
Wrexham Industrial Estate
Wrexham
United Kingdom
LL13 9QE

Study participating centre

Hmp Cardiff
Knox Road
Cardiff
United Kingdom
CF24 0UG

Study participating centre

Hmp Dartmoor
Princetown
Yelverton
United Kingdom
PL20 6RR

Study participating centre

Hmp Elmley

H M Prison, Elmley
Church Road
Eastchurch
Sheerness
United Kingdom
ME12 4DZ

Study participating centre

Hmp Erlestoke

Erlestoke House
Erlestoke
Devizes
United Kingdom
SN10 5TU

Study participating centre

Hmp Highpoint

H M Prison Highpoint
Highpoint
Stradishall
Newmarket
United Kingdom
CB8 9YG

Study participating centre

Hmp Huntercombe

H M Young Offenders Institute
Huntercombe PLACE
Nuffield
Henley-on-thames
United Kingdom
RG9 5SB

Study participating centre

Hmp Leeds

H M Prison, Armley Jail
Gloucester Terrace
Armley

Leeds
United Kingdom
LS12 2TJ

Study participating centre

Hmp Liverpool
68 Hornby Road
Liverpool
United Kingdom
L9 3DF

Study participating centre

Hmp Stafford
54 Gaol Road
Stafford
United Kingdom
ST16 3AW

Study participating centre

Hmp Stocken
H M Prison
Stocken Hall Road
Stretton
Oakham
United Kingdom
LE15 7RD

Study participating centre

Hmp the Verne
H M Prison
The Verne
Portland
United Kingdom
DT5 1EQ

Study participating centre

Hmp Usk / Prescoed
Usk and Prescoed
Coedypaen

Pontypool
United Kingdom
NP4 0TB

Study participating centre

Hmp Whatton
New Lane
Whatton
Nottingham
United Kingdom
NG13 9FQ

Study participating centre

Hmp Whitemoor
H M Prison
Whitemoor
Longhill Road
March
United Kingdom
PE15 0PR

Study participating centre

Hmp Wormwood Scrubs Health Inreach Team
H M Prison
Wormwood Scrubs
Du Cane Road
London
United Kingdom
W12 0AE

Sponsor information

Organisation

Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

Research for Patient Benefit Programme

Alternative Name(s)

NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Programme, Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB), The NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB), RfPB

Funding Body Type

Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype

National government

Location

United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are not expected to be made available due to participants not providing consent for data sharing.

IPD sharing plan summary

Not expected to be made available