**Participant Information Sheet for ‘program architects’ (phase 1 & 3)**

**Title of study:** ‘Realist Evaluation of Adapted Sex Offender Treatment Programs for Men with Intellectual Disability’

*Brief introduction to the study*

**Please read this information sheet to help you understand why you have been invited to take part in an interview.**

**Who is organising the study?**

This research has been organised by Andrea Hollomotz from the department of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds, in partnership with xxx. Both run an adapted sex offender treatment program (ASOTP). The study is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council’s Future Research Leaders Scheme (ESRC grant nr. ES/L010534/1).

You are invited to take part in two interviews with Andrea Hollomotz, either face to face or via Skype.

**Aim of the research project**

This project aims to strengthen the evidence base for ASOTPs for men with ID. It is underpinned by three main questions:

1. How and why do ASOTPs work?
2. For whom and in what contexts do ASOTPs work best?
3. How does a person's social context, including their care pathway during and after treatment, impact on long-term treatment success?

An important further objective is to achieve an innovative research methodology: This study is the first to explicitly apply realist evaluation to ASOTPs. Realist evaluation recognizes that intervention programmes and policy changes do not necessarily work for everyone, since people differ and are situated in diverse social, cultural and political contexts. Instead, it recognises that there are many interwoven variables which can have an impact on outcomes. This study will also include user accounts as a central component of the evaluation.

**Why is this study being undertaken?**

Sociologists have published remarkably few studies on disabled offenders in general and sex offenders with ID in particular. Existing evaluation studies of ASOTPs have focused on ‘what works’, often using psychological and relapse measures, as explained below. Though valuable, they do not focus on helping us understand how ASOTPs work best, why and for whom. This makes it difficult to target interventions to meet individual needs, resulting, as one course tutor explained in the pilot project, in services adopting a ‘scattergun approach’. Practitioners do not know what element works, but as something is working, a range of curriculum components are offered in the hope that those that will affect change are among them.

To date, many evaluations have used recidivism, in other words relapse into criminal behaviour, as a key indicator of success. This approach has many strengths, but also significant weaknesses. Firstly, definitions differ between settings, making comparisons difficult. Secondly, the social context of a sex offender with ID impacts on recidivism risk. For instance, in contrast to those who serve prison sentences of a fixed duration, those who have been diverted from the penal system may remain within forensic accommodation after completing treatment, which on one hand reduces opportunities to offend in the community, but on the other hand increases risk for ‘counterfeit deviance’. Amongst others, this theory claims that sexually inappropriate behaviours in some people with ID may be caused by environmental issues particular to that group, such as lack of opportunities for appropriate sexual outlets. Furthermore, upon release many sex offenders with ID continue to be subjected to social care packages with high levels of supervision to manage risk. This indicates that recidivism is at times brought on or prevented by the immediate environment.

The proposed project is timely. The UK’s Health and Social Care Act 2012 sets out specific obligations for the health system to work together with social care services. Part of this study will evaluate the impact of the social care pathway alongside and following treatment. Recommendations will be made on optimum linkage between the two.

**Who is being asked to take part and in what ways?**

You are invited to take part in phase 1 interviews with ‘program architects’, those who have informed the design of ASOTPs at various international locations. You will be asked to share your reflections on how ASOTPs are intended to work.

Phase 2 tests, evaluates and refines the draft ‘program theories’ from the user and practitioner perspectives and identifies what works for whom, in what context, why and how.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, you have the right to choose whether to participate in the interview, it is voluntary. If you choose not to take part that is OK. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time up to the analysis and writing up stage of each phase, without giving a reason.

If you choose to take part you will be asked to sign a consent form before the interview starts.

**What will happen if I take part?**

You are invited to take part in an interview facilitated by Andrea Hollomotz within the next two months (phase 1) The interviews will last about 1 – 1½ hours each.

The interviews will be audio recorded to help in the analysis of the data.

**What happens if I don’t want to carry on with the study?**

You can choose to withdraw from the study at any time, up until three months after the interview, without giving a reason. If you choose to do this after the interview your data will be destroyed and not included in the analysis of the study.

**What will happen after the interview?**

The interviews will be transcribed and fully anonymised. The transcripts will then be analysed by Andrea Hollomotz at the University of Leeds. She will also have some help from a project advisory group.

The results of the study will be written up for a mid-term and a final report as well as for academic publications, such as journal articles and conference presentations. They will be publicised on the project website.

**Confidentiality**

Consent forms (which need to be signed before taking part in the interview) will be kept in a locked filing cabinet at the University of Leeds, separate from any data collected.

The audio recording of the interview discussion will be done digitally; this means the recording will be stored electronically on the University of Leeds SAN (Storage Area Network), which is password protected. Only members of the research team will have access to these files.

The transcripts of the recordings and the analysis of the data will be kept on the University of Leeds SAN – no one will be identified on this data.

The study will be publicised in academic publications and at conferences, but no participant will be identified and any quotes used will remain anonymous.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This study was reviewed by the ESRC in a vigorous peer review process, before it received funding. All research is furthermore looked at by a group of people to check the study is ethically safe. This study was reviewed by an NHS Research Ethics Committee to protect your interests.

**Complaints**Please speak to me, Andrea Hollomotz, about any concerns you may have about this study. I will do my best to answer your questions. Alternatively, you may wish to contact my mentor, Dr Joanne Greenhalgh, who will discuss your concerns with me.

**Taking Part**

If you have read the above information and are happy to take part in the interview, please contact Andrea Hollomotz by Skype, phone or email to register your interest. It is hoped to arrange your interview within two months after you receive this information. Details of the venue (if applicable – Skype interviews otherwise) and time will be sent to you once you have registered your interest. You will have the opportunity to go through this information again and ask further questions on the day of the interview before you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**Data Archiving**

We would like to archive the data you provide at the UK Data Archive. (Please see box 1 for more information.)

This will allow other genuine researchers to have access to this data only if they agree to preserve the confidentiality of the information as described earlier. They may then use your words in publications, reports, web pages, and other research outputs.

Your decision about data archiving does not impact on your decision about participation. In other words, you may still participate if you opt out of data archiving.

**Box 1: What is the UK Data Archive?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| UK-DataArchive-smallSocial scientists depend upon resources that are quite different from those needed by other scientists. Whereas an astronomer needs a large telescope, a social scientist very often needs access to large collections of high quality data. Collecting data from surveys, questionnaires or interviews for one study is a painstaking process. Providing that accurate records have been kept, data that have been collected for one study can be analysed again for an entirely different piece of research. Recognising this need, the Social Science Research Council supported the establishment of the Archive in 1967. | |
| **The UK Data Archive is curator of the largest collection of digital data in the social sciences and humanities in the United Kingdom. With several thousand datasets the Archive is a vital resource for researchers, teachers and learners.**  The UK Data Service provides access to disclosive and more sensitive data through its **Secure Data Services**. |  |
| This was carefully designed to allow researchers to realise the full value of sensitive or confidential data while protecting the privacy of individuals and organisations. Researchers apply to become a member of the Secure Data Service, which includes becoming an Approved or Accredited Researcher according to criteria set out by the Office for National Statistics and the ESRC. They also endorse a code of conduct that puts data security at the centre of all research activities.  *Adapted from:* [*http://www.data-archive.ac.uk*](http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/about/archive) | |

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information about your invitation to the interviews.**

For more information please visit the project website at: <http://adaptingtreatment.com/> or if you wish to speak to us, email or ring Andrea Hollomotz on [A.Hollomotz@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:A.Hollomotz@leeds.ac.uk) and 0044 7977500412 or Joanne Greenhalgh on [j.greenhalgh@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.greenhalgh@leeds.ac.uk) and 0044 113 343 1359.