**RELATIONS STUDY**

**Interview Guide**

**Managers, Commissioners and Policymakers**

***Introductions:***

* Reiterate purpose of the interview - to further understand the views and experiences of Service Managers/Commissioners/Policymakers on the way services for parents who use drugs and their families are configured/delivered and evaluated, including strategic thinking/action on important aspects of policy and practice.
* Check agreement to audio-record.
* Check participant socio-demographic information: to be recorded by researcher on separate form prior to interview.

Note: Building on emerging data from observational work in services and with families, interview topics will be tailored according to relevance to each interviewee, his/her organisation and role/remit.

Note: incorporate impact of COVID-19 pandemic throughout as appropriate.

**TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED (WHERE RELEVANT) AND EXAMPLE QUESTIONS**

**Start:** Can you describe your role and remit in relation to (a) service provision, (b) practice and (c) strategic planning and decision-making in this area?

What are your key responsibilities and goals? Has your role changed over time? If so, in what ways?

Who do you work most closely with (inside and outside of the organisation)? And what is the nature of these partnerships? What are you trying to achieve with these partnerships?

What policies/guidance/procedures are most relevant in your field and how have they come about (key drivers)? To what extent are they applied in practice do you think (rhetoric vs reality)? Are these policies discussed or debated across your service/with other service providers? If so, in what forum?

What ideas or assumptions do you think frame service providers’ approach to parental opioid use?

What do you think is the best approach to the provision of services for mothers and fathers who use drugs, and families affected by parental opioid use?

What are the key challenges in this area? How can they be addressed [explore potential solutions e.g. policy responses]. What would be required to bring about any changes?

***Followed by exploration of key topic areas [to be tailored to interviewee] including:***

**Service planning/service delivery** [if relevant]

In your view, what are the key challenges around needs assessment, and planning and delivering services to this population?

Are there any gaps in the type of services and support that parents who use drugs may need and what can be provided? How can services be improved?

Are there other services, or other ways of working that you would like to be able to deliver/commission?

What inter-agency working is taking place at a service/professional practice level? What challenges are involved? Do you see any differences in the practice of service providers across different organisations?

How might you balance issues such as ‘child protection’ versus ‘family support’?

**Policymaking** [if relevant]

Can you describe the main policy objectives with regard to parental substance use?

How have these policies been produced? (to what extent have parents taken an active role in this process?) How are the key players in policymaking in this field?

To what extent are policies designed to meet the needs of parents who use drugs? Or children? Or family members?

How do you know current policies are working? What role does monitoring and evaluation have in the design, implementation and delivery of policies?

To what extent does cross-directorate working take place, and how does it influence your work?

**Practice issues** [if relevant]

Identification of parents who use drugs – how is this done/why/how well?

Assessment of parents who use drugs – who? Where? What for?

What is your view of information-sharing in the context of parental drug use? What systems are in place for sharing and recording information about families? What information, if any, should be shared do you think, and between who?

Care planning for parents and families – who does this? How?

**Interventions [if relevant]**

What interventions (e.g., parenting/family support, housing support, drug treatment, trauma counselling, psychosocial/psychological interventions) are available to parents who use drugs? How well are they working for parents? How do you measure outcomes/impact?

**Wider determinants of health and contextual issues**

[If interviewees mention concepts such as ‘risk’, ‘vulnerability’, ‘protective factors’, ‘resilience’, ‘adversity’, ‘addiction’, ‘attachment’ etc] Can you give examples of what these concepts mean in policy/practice, and how they are understood and responded to in the context of parental drug use?

[If interviewees mention wider structural issues such as gender, race, poverty, class/culture etc] Can you give examples of how these relate to practice in the services you manage or commission, and how they are understood and responded to within the context of parental drug use?

[If interviewees describe wider systems of care e.g. partnership working, the overall quality of service provision, available resources/funding/staffing, waiting times, state intervention, overarching policies or ideologies etc] Can you expand on how these issues impact on the services you manage or commission?