

## **Participant information sheet (Phase 5. Staff focus group)** **Improving injecting skills and preventing blood borne virus infection in people** **who inject drugs in the UK**

Thank you for delivering the PROTECT group programme for our research study. We would now like to invite you to take part in a focus group about your experiences of delivering the programme. Before you decide whether or not to take part, we would like you to understand why the focus group is being done and what it would involve for you. One of our team will go through this information sheet with you and answer any questions you have. Do feel free to talk to others about the study if you wish. We appreciate you taking the time to decide whether or not to participate.

### **Why are we doing the focus group?**

You recently delivered the PROTECT group programme to help people who inject to be able to reduce sexual and drug related blood borne virus risk behaviours. We would like to hear about your experiences so that we can improve the programme if necessary.

### **What will participation entail?**

If you agree to take part in the focus group you will be asked to complete and sign the consent form. The focus group will last about 30 minutes and will include the other facilitator(s) in your locality who delivered the programme so that you can discuss your participation together as a group.

The focus group will be audio-recorded with your consent. The recording will be uploaded to a secure computer and deleted from the recording device. The recording will be typed out word for word by a professional transcriber. Only the researchers conducting the study will have access to these typed copies. The researcher will check the transcripts for accuracy and remove any references to names. A study number will identify you. The transcript and audio-recording will be stored on a secure computer separately from your contact details. Data will be kept securely for 7 years after publication of the findings and then destroyed.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Your feedback on delivering this programme will help us to improve the programme and potentially help people who inject drugs reduce the risk of blood borne viruses transmission.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

There is low risk of harm by taking part. In order to minimise the risk of your identity being revealed, once the focus group has been transcribed a code number will be assigned to the transcript to prevent identification. A study number will identify you. Your name will not be used. However, given the small number of people who delivered this group programme, it is possible that you may still be identifiable to some people. We will send the anonymised, password-protected transcript to you in advance of analysing it so that you have an opportunity to review and edit the information before we use it.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to take part in the focus group. If you agree to take part, we will then ask you to sign a consent form. You are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

**Results of the research study**

The results of this research study will be available after we have analysed the data. We will present the results at conferences and in relevant scientific journals. Reports will contain quotes from the focus group to emphasise important points made by participants but your name will not be used.

**Who reviewed the study**

The study has been reviewed by the East Midlands – Leicester South Research Ethics Committee (reference: 15/EM/0413).

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

The research is being led by Dr Gail Gilchrist, from the National Addiction Centre at King's College London, and is funded by the National Institute for Health Research. If you wish to talk to someone about the research please contact Dr Gail Gilchrist on [telephone number].

## CONSENT FORM (Phase 5 Staff Focus Group)

**Title of Project: Improving injecting skills and preventing blood borne virus infection in people who inject drugs in the UK**

**Name of Researcher: Dr Gail Gilchrist**

Please initial all boxes

1. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw from the study at any time without giving any reason.
2. The procedures and limitations regarding anonymity have been clearly explained to me (e.g. use of study ID numbers in transcripts and reports instead of names)
3. I agree to the focus group being audio-recorded.
4. I understand that the data will be published at the end of the study and that anonymous quotations from the focus group may be used in the report/publication.
5. I agree to the anonymized focus group data being shared with researchers at the five institutions where the research is being carried out – King’s College London, University of the West of Scotland, University of York, NHS Wales and the University of Huddersfield.
6. I agree to take part in the above study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of researcher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature