

Relationships in Good Hands Trial: (RIGHT) clinical and cost-effectiveness of Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy for abused and neglected young children with maltreatment-associated problems and their parents



FAQ summary sheet for recruiting organisations

What is the project about?

Often, children who are adopted or in care experience psychological or relationship problems. There are many different health and social care services available to help, and they all aim to improve the child's mental health and/or the family relationships. This study is trying to find out which type of service works best and whether these services are worth the costs and the effort families have to put in to receive these services. We are inviting foster and adoptive families to take part in this study if they were referred for support with a child aged between 5 and 12 years of age. If they decide to take part, families would be offered either Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) or the services already being provided locally, which can be a range of social and health care supports. We call these wide-ranging health and social services "Services-As-Usual" (SAU).

Who can help me if I have any questions?

Within your organisation, there will be a Trial Champion who acts as a link between the research team and the recruiting organisation and helps to troubleshoot problems. Your Trial Champion is:

You can always contact the research team:

Trial Manager – Karen Crawford: karen.crawford@glasgow.ac.uk

Trial Coordinator (responsible for England sites) – Verity Westgate: verity.westgate@psych.ox.ac.uk

Who can participate?

We are looking for (Inclusion criteria):

- **Adoptive or permanent foster** families with children aged **5-12 years** with maltreatment-associated psychiatric problems (MAPP) (i.e. mental health problems thought to be linked to abuse or neglect in early life)

Exclusion criteria

- Families, otherwise eligible, deemed by social workers or therapists as not ready for DDP – see later
- Children currently having another psychotherapy
- Children under an SGO

I have a family who might be eligible for the trial!

Use the referral criteria checklist to establish whether the family are eligible and whether they are considered "ready" to participate in DDP. This checklist has been developed with DDP Connects.

Provide the family with initial information about the rationale for the trial and discuss potential interest. If they are interested, provide them with:

- A lay summary of the project
- An information sheet for the parents
- An information sheet for the child (two versions – ages 5-7 and ages 7-12)
- A consent form for the parents
- An assent form for the child (two versions – ages 5-7 and ages 7-12)

If they are still interested in taking part, ask for their permission to share their contact details with the research team, and record this permission in your own service documentation. You do not need to get them to sign the consent form – consent will be taken by the research team.

How do I let the research team know that the family is interested?

The named administrator has access to a special database to record the family's contact details which will alert the research team, so please let them know about the family on xxxxxx

If there are problems with this, then please email the Trial Coordinator (contact details above) and we can arrange a telephone call to share the information with the research team.

It is very important that you do not share a family's personal information with us by email.

What happens next?

We contact the family and discuss the trial to make sure that they understand what participating involves. If they would still like to participate, we will take signed consent from them. We will arrange to carry out some baseline assessment measures with them. After that, our computer system will randomise them to either DDP or Services As Usual. The system will let the Trial Manager and Trial Coordinator know the result and they will share this information with the recruiting organisation. You will then refer the family to the appropriate service in the usual way.

What about waiting lists?

As nearly all services are subject to waiting lists, it might be necessary to first register the potential participant with the services provider (e.g. ATTACH) on their waiting list. This should be done for all potential participants referred to the trial, even if at this stage the arm to which participant will be randomised is not known. The research team will only randomise when the potential participant moved closer to the top of the waiting list as at that point it is known that supportive services can be delivered.

What is included in Services As Usual?

Services As Usual means any of the usual services that you would refer a child/family to that is not DDP or DDP informed work. This might be their usual work with a social worker, such as life-story work, or it might be input from CAMHS, or treatments such as Play Therapy.