

What if I have other questions?

If you have any other questions, please feel free to speak to:

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The **National Centre for Social Research** (NatCen) is the largest independent social research institute in Britain. We design, carry out, and analyse, research studies in the fields of social and public policy.



The **NATIONAL DRUG EVIDENCE CENTRE (NDEC)** based at University of Manchester, specialises in drug misuse prevalence work, evaluative and outcomes research. The work of the NDEC is at local national and European levels. The University of Manchester is a charitable organisation operating on a not for profit basis.

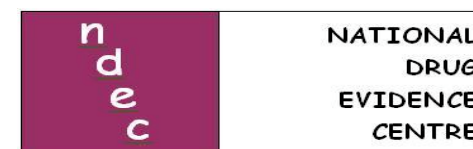
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Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study (DTORS)



Qualitative Research with Service Providers

Commissioned by the Home Office



NatCen are leading this strand of research, exploring service providers' experience of delivering drug treatment programmes. **This leaflet provides you with further information about the study.**

What is DTORS?

The study is about people who are entering drug treatment programmes in England and the experiences of staff who provide the treatment. The information will be used to plan the provision of drug treatment and other services in this country, to help as many people as possible overcome their drug problems

The overall aims of this study are:

How well do drug treatment programmes impact on levels of substance use, user wellbeing, and offending behaviour?

How does outcome vary by referral, treatment pathways, drugs used and individual differences?

What have been the experiences of service providers and service users?

Why have you chosen me?

We have asked the manager of your treatment facility to identify staff delivering front-line treatment services. If you are interested in taking part in the research, you will be asked to consent to NatCen being passed your contact details. If you consent, NatCen will contact you to discuss the study.

We will be speaking to treatment staff within four DATs. The four DATs we will visit for this study have been chosen to represent the range of intervention types and project delivery models found across all areas.

What will I be asked?

We will ask you to talk in detail about the following broad topics:

- Your role in the treatment process
- The key local issues facing those staff delivering local treatment services
- Explore the range of expected and outcomes – what works well for whom
- Examine barriers and enabling factors in retaining service users in treatment

This phase of the research is different from the main survey research, as it will give staff the opportunity to talk about their own experiences of providing drug treatment services in an in-depth interview format.

What else is happening?

In addition, we will be exploring the views of a range of service users. This will provide an examination of their views and experiences of treatment services and the different outcomes they have experienced.

Do I have to take part?

No. We are relying on your voluntary co-operation. No one is taking part in this study who does not want to. Even if you say yes to begin with, you are free to stop at any time.

What will the research involve?

Interviews will involve a researcher talking to you for about one hour and thirty minutes. The interview will be recorded on a tape recorder so that we can be sure that we correctly remember everything that you tell us. We will of course work around your busy schedules in order to arrange a venue and time convenient to you for these interviews.

We will be conducting this research in winter 2006 and spring 2007

Is it confidential?

Yes. Once we have written down what you have told us from the tape recording, the tape will be wiped clean. No one who knows you will be able to find out what you have said in the interview. This includes colleagues or clients from your own or any other treatment centre. The only time we may discuss what you have said with others is if you tell us about a risk or actual harm to another person who cannot speak for themselves, or the intention to harm yourself.

Our responsibilities to you:

- **We guard your privacy:** your participation will be treated in strict confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Your contribution will be used for research purposes only. Neither individual DATs, treatment centres nor staff will be identified in the final report.
- **We respect your wishes:** participation in the study is voluntary and you are not obliged to answer any questions you do not wish to.
- **We answer your questions:** we will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the research.