

# Carmen Study

## Interview with project coordinators

### Introduce:

- Aim of interview is to find out about the practices and processes employed by the LA so far and to assess the capacity and needs of LA to deliver it – in view of definitive trial
- Interview is non-judgmental
- Confidential
- Will be anonymised
- Recording

### 1. Background:

1.1 How did you become involved in the Carmen study?

**Probe:** when? Were you invited?

1.2 Do you think the study is a worthwhile area of research? I.e. reducing teenage pregnancy in looked after children?

**Probe:** Can you say a little bit more on this? What strategies do LA have in place for a) reducing teenage pregnancy b) specifically looked after children?

1.3 What do you think about using peer mentoring as a way of, potentially, reducing teenage pregnancy in looked after children?

**Probe:** What do you think are the benefits of this approach?

Does the age of the mentor / having a peer, who has shared experience of care, make a difference?

1.4 What do you think about the fact that half the young women are randomly allocated to receive a mentor and half are randomly allocated to receive usual care?

### **Probe:**

i) Do you see this as a potential advantage and/or disadvantage for participants in this study?

Is the fact that some participants get a mentor and some do not an impediment in some way ?

ii) What do you think social workers and other professionals feel about the randomisation in Carmen study? E.g. Has this intervention been embraced by them.....?

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## 2 Carmen Study Project coordinator role:

2.1 What do you consider to be the role of the project coordinator?

**Probe:** Recruitment, retention, support

2.2 Can you tell me whether you've had any previous experience of recruiting people for research?

2.3 Can you describe how the project coordinator role was allocated?

**Probe:** who are PC's? / and how was this decided?

2.4 How is the project coordinator role implemented in practice?

**Probe:** What is the role of each person? Is it equal? How do you feel about this?

2.5 How many people do you feel the project coordinator role requires?

Could it be done by one person? Under what circumstances?

2.6 What resources do you think are required in order to fulfil the role of the project coordinator for the Carmen study?

**Probe:** Time

2.7 Do you think you've had adequate resources to fulfil the role of PC?

**Probe:** If not, what would have helped you to be able to fulfil this role? Which resources were available to you? What other support do you think is required to fulfil the role of a PC?

2.8 What is the role of social workers in terms of helping to deliver the intervention?

**Probe:** What is the social worker role? Who in your view is better placed to effectively help the Carmen study to deliver the intervention? Why?

2.9 What do you feel is the role senior managers for delivering the Carmen Study?

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## 3. Promoting the Carmen Study in the LA

3.1 Can you tell me whether anyone else in the LA been involved in promoting the Carmen Study to professionals? (If yes, who has been most helpful? name and role)

3.2 Can you tell me what things have you / others done to promote the Carmen Study

3.3 Which professionals has the Carmen study been promoted to?

3.4 Can you tell me about the response you have had from professionals  
**Probe:** What was their response about being involved in the study? What was the outcome of these contacts? Was there a difference in response depending on profession? Why?

- 3.5 Under what circumstances has recruitment been
- i) effective
  - ii) Ineffective (What difficulties have there been?)

3.6 What support does the Project coordinator need in order for recruitment to be effective? (And by effective we mean working within the set/agreed deadlines?)

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#### **4. Direct experiences of recruitment:**

4.1 Can you tell me what kind of young person you would consider approaching to participate in the study

- i. As mentor
- ii. As potential mentee

4.2 Are there some young women you would be more likely to ask to participate in the study than others?

4.3 Are there any types of young women you would not ask to participate in the study?

**Probe:** Why? What are your concerns? Any particular behaviour you have in mind? Chaotic young people

#### **4.4 EXPLAIN RECRUITMENT CRITERIA**

Bearing in mind the aims of the study, what are your views on our recruitment criteria?

- i. Mentor
- ii. Potential mentee

**Probe:** what would you add? / Omit

4.5 Have you been involved in recruiting anyone to this study?

**Probe:** IF not reasons why recruiter may/ may not approach people – e.g. lack of time, lack of suitable participants (too young / out of borough) concerns about the impact of study on participants / or research)

For THOSE PROFS WHO HAVE TRIED TO RECRUIT:

- i. How many young women have you approached? (to be mentors / potential mentees)
- ii. What motivated you to approach them? I.e. were you asked to approach them by the PC or a researcher / did you decide yourself following a team meeting / seeing a flyer?
- iii. Do you think you had all the information you needed in order to fully explain the study to the young people? (if not, did you seek further clarifications?)
- iv. What was the support you received from the research team?  
(Anything they could have done differently to support you in your role?)
- v. How did you feel about explaining the study to the young person?
- vi. What was the person's reaction to the study?
- vii. Why do they think someone agreed/ did not agree to take part in the study?
- viii. What did you do after you spoke to them? I.e. did you make a referral to project coordinator / did you inform the person who had asked you to call the young woman? What about YP not interested, did you tell PC/researchers?
- ix. Do you know how the participant responded to receiving a mentor/ not receiving a mentor?

4.6 What do you think have been the difficulties that social workers have encountered in terms of recruiting mentor/mentees to the Carmen study? - Do these difficulties apply to you also?

**Probe:**

- i) Out of borough / age of participants
- ii) Recent activities / priorities within the organisation
- iii) Time (your time / PC /social workers time) ,
- iv) Funding
- v) Staffing

4.7 What could assist you / LA in overcoming difficulties with recruitment?

**Probe:**

- i) Time (your time / PC /social workers time)
- ii) Funding
- iii) Staffing

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## 5. The mentoring intervention

- 5.1 On what basis, if any, do you think mentors and mentees should be matched?
- 5.2 What is your view on the incentives for mentors? (Mentors for the Carmen study receive £40 vouchers per month and can gain a level 1 Asdan qualification).
- 5.3 What do you think about the amount of money for mentor and mentees travel and activities? (£15 / week)
- 5.4 Mentors in the Carmen study are asked to meet with their mentee once a week, face to face, for one hour, for one year. What do you think about this?

**Probe:** Is it too much, too little, just right?

Practical issues Travel (car/public transport – other commitments – Childcare expenses)

- 5.5 What kind of support do you think a mentor would need to undertake this role?

**Probe:** What do you think they may need help with? How?

- 5.6 Can you explain how you ensure mentors are supported?

**Probe:** Mentor support group / Endings

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## 6. Embedding the intervention into LA's

The Carmen Study trial results will be used to develop a manual which outlines the methods of recruitment training and management – with a view that each LA across England and Wales should be able to deliver and manage the intervention in-house.

- 6.1 What, in your view, would the LA require or need to do in order to manage and deliver the intervention?

(By this I mean deliver mentor training, recruit sufficient mentors and mentees in an allocated time frame and support them through the mentoring year)

- 6.2 What are your views about rolling out this mentoring intervention across England?

**Probe:** what do you think the obstacle would be?

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Overall,

7.1 Do you have any particular concerns about this mentoring intervention that you would like to share with us?

7.2 Do you have any particular concerns about what this intervention is trying to achieve?

# Carmen Study

## Interview with Senior Managers

### Introduce:

- **Aim of interview is to find out about the practices and processes employed by the LA so far and to assess the capacity and needs of LA to deliver it – in view of definitive trial**
- **Interview is non-judgmental**
- **Confidential**
- **Will be anonymised**
- **Recording**

### 2. Background:

1.1 How did this LA / you become involved in the Carmen study?

**Probe:** when? Were you invited to be involved?

1.2 What were your initial thoughts about it?

1.3 Do you think the study is a worthwhile area of research? I.e. reducing teenage pregnancy in looked after children?

**Probe:** What are the priorities in the LA regarding TP ? How does the Carmen Study fit in with these?

1.4 What do you think about using peer mentoring, specifically, as a way of potentially reducing teenage pregnancy in looked after children?

**Probe:** What do you think are the benefits of this approach?  
Does the age of the mentor / having a peer, who has shared experience of care, make a difference?

1.5 What do you think about the fact that half the young women are randomly allocated to receive a mentor and half are randomly allocated to receive usual care?

### **Probe:**

- iii) Do you see this as a potential advantage and/or disadvantage for participants in this study? Do you think the fact that some participants get a mentor and some do not is an impediment in some way?
- iv) What do you think social workers and other professionals feel about the randomisation in Carmen study? E.g Has this intervention been embraced by them.....?

## 2 Carmen Study Senior Management role:

2.1 What do you consider to be the role of senior management in the study?

**Probe:** Recruitment, support

2.2 Can you describe your involvement in the Carmen study so far

**Probe:** Experiences of;

- i) Nominating PC's
- ii) Supporting PC's
- iii) Recruitment

## 3 Promoting the Carmen Study in the LA

3.1 What do you think is the role of a) Project coordinator b) social worker for delivering the Carmen Study

3.2 How has the role of the PC been allocated? (What is the difference between the roles?)

3.3 Can you tell me how the Carmen Study has been promoted to professionals in this Local Authority?

**Probe:** To what extent has it been promoted by senior manager / PC / other professionals

3.4 Can you tell me what you know about the response you have had from social workers and other professionals In terms of referring young people to the Carmen Study?

- i) Young women in care aged 14-18
- ii) Young women aged 19-25

**Probe:** possible reasons

3.5 Could you tell me what you know about the difficulties that have been encountered in recruiting participants, both in relation to mentors and mentees?

- iii) Young women in care aged 14-18
- iv) Young women aged 19-25

## 4 LA Capacity

4.1 What has been the capacity of the Local Authority to manage the intervention so far?

**Probe:**

- vi) Recent activities / priorities within the organisation (Reorganisations / inspections)
- vii) Time (your time / PC /social workers time) ,



- viii) Funding
- ix) Staffing

4.2 What do you think have been the main difficulties for the LA of managing the Carmen Study so far?

4.3 What would assist the Local Authority to effectively manage the intervention?

**Probe:**

- iv) Time (your time / PC /social workers time)
- v) Funding a post to deliver it?
- vi) Staffing

**5. Embedding the intervention into LA's**

The Carmen Study trial results will be used to develop a manual which outlines the methods of recruitment, training and management – with a view that each LA across England and Wales should be able to deliver and manage the intervention in-house.

5.1 What would the LA require / need to do in order to manage and deliver the intervention?  
E.g Funding for dedicated PC post?

5.1 What are your views about rolling out this mentoring intervention across England?

**Probe:** what do you think the obstacles would be?

**6. Concerns**

6.1 Do you have any particular concerns about this mentoring intervention that you would like to share with us?

6.2 Do you have any particular concerns about what this intervention is trying to achieve?

6.3 Are there any other comments you'd like to make about any aspect of the study?

# Carmen Study

## Interview with participating social workers

### 3. Background:

1.1 When did you first hear about the Carmen Study? From whom?

**Probe:** was there push / presence from senior managers?

1.2 How did you become involved in the study?

1.3 Do you think the study is a worthwhile area of research? I.e. reducing teenage pregnancy in looked after children?

**Probe:** Can you say a little bit more on this?

1.4 What do you think about using peer mentoring as a way of, potentially, reducing teenage pregnancy in looked after children?

**Probe:** What do you think are the benefits of this approach?

1.5 What do you think about the fact that half the young women are randomly allocated to receive a mentor and half are randomly allocated to receive usual care?

#### **Probe:**

- v) Do you see this as a potential advantage and/or disadvantage for participants in this study? Is the fact that some participants get a mentor and some do not an impediment in some way ?
- vi) What do you think other professionals feel about the randomisation in Carmen study? E.g Has this intervention been embraced by them.....?

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#### **Recruitment:**

2.1 Have you any previous experience of recruiting people for research?

**Probe:** As wondering how methods / experience of recruitment for Carmen study compares - what makes this different / similar / more difficult / easier?

2.2 Have you been involved in recruiting anyone to this study?

**Probe:** IF not reasons why recruiter may/ may not approach people – e.g. lack of time, lack of suitable participants (too young / out of borough) concerns about the impact of study on participants / or research)

## For THOSE WHO HAVE TRIED TO RECRUIT:

- x. How many young women have you approached? (to be mentors / potential mentees)
- xi. What motivated you to approach them? I.e. were you asked to approach them by the PC or a researcher / did you decide yourself following a team meeting / seeing a flyer?
- xii. Do you think you had all the information you needed in order to fully explain the study to the young people? (if not, did you seek further clarifications?)
- xiii. What was the support you received from the research team?  
(Anything they could have done differently to support you in your role?)
- xiv. How did you feel about explaining the study?
- xv. What was the person's reaction to the study?
- xvi. Why do they think someone agreed/ did not agree to take part in the study?
- xvii. What did you do after you spoke to them? I.e. What did you do if they were NOT interested and what did you do if they were? Did you make a referral to project coordinator / did you inform the person who had asked you to call the young woman?
- xviii. How did participants respond to receiving a mentor/ not receiving a mentor?

2.3 Can you tell me what kind of young person you would consider approaching to participate in the study

- i. As mentor
- ii. As potential mentee

2.4 Are there some young women you would be more likely to ask to participate in the study than others?

2.5 Are there any types of young women you would not ask to participate in the study?

**Probe:** Why? What are your concerns? Any particular behaviour you have in mind? Chaotic young people

2.6 EXPLAIN RECRUITMENT CRITERIA

Bearing in mind the aims of the study, what are your views on our recruitment criteria?

- i. Mentor
- ii. Potential mentee

**Probe:** what would you add? / Omit

2.7 What do you think have been the difficulties that social workers have encountered in terms of recruiting mentor/mentees to the Carmen study? Young women in care aged 14-18 / Young women aged 19-25

**Probe:**

- x) Out of borough / age of participants
- xi) Recent activities / priorities within the organisation
- xii) Time (your time / PC /social workers time) ,
- xiii) Funding
- xiv) Staffing - Staff turnover!?

2.8 Did you encounter any of those? **(If you know they did - Which ones?)**

2.9 What could assist you / LA in overcoming difficulties with recruitment?

**Probe:**

- vii) Time (your time / PC /social workers time)
- viii) Funding
- ix) Staffing

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**4. Explaining the study**

3.1 For future recruitment, we'd like to ensure that all professionals feel fully equipped to recruit young women and are able to describe the study in the same way. To help us with this, we'd like to know what you think is the best way to explain the following:

- i) Why the LA are taking part in the Carmen study
- ii) Possible benefits for young woman who take part – both those who receive a mentor and those who do not
- iii) What happens to people if a young person agrees to take part?
- iv) The Randomisation of participants - receive a mentor or usual care
- v) What participation in the study might involve? (i.e mentor / research)

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## 5. The mentoring intervention

4.1 On what basis, if any, do you think mentors and mentees should be matched?

4.2 What is your view on the incentives for mentors? (Mentors for the Carmen study receive £40 vouchers per month and can gain a level 1 Asdan qualification).

4.3 What do you think about the amount of money for mentor and mentees travel and activities? (£15 / week)

4.4 Mentors in the Carmen study are asked to meet with their mentee once a week, face to face, for one hour, for one year. **What do you think about this?**

**Probe:** Is it too much, too little, just right?

Practical issues Travel (car/public transport – other commitments – Childcare expenses)

4.5 What kind of support do you think a mentor would need to undertake this role?

**Probe:** What do you think they may need help with? How?

What do they think of monthly support group?

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Overall,

5.1 Do you have any particular concerns about this mentoring intervention that you would like to share with us?

5.2 Do you have any particular concerns about what this intervention is trying to achieve?