

Research Project

Interactive group art therapy as an adjunctive treatment for people with schizophrenia

(MATISSE: Multicentre study of Art Therapy In Schizophrenia: Systematic Evaluation)

www.hta.ac.uk/project/1525.asp

<http://controlled-trials.com/ISRCTN46150447/matisse>

This research project has been awarded £809,357 over 3 years, from the Department of Health via the Health Technology Assessment (HTA). It is a three-arm, parallel, randomised, controlled trial of referral to interactive group art therapy plus standard care, referral to an attention control 'activity' group plus standard care, and standard care alone. Art Therapy is one of the Allied Health Professions.

Dr Caryl Sibbett instigated the involvement of the Queen's University and Northern Ireland in this project. She is a lecturer in the School of Education, Queen's University Belfast, programme leader of the MSc Art Therapy / MSc Art Psychotherapy, and an Art Psychotherapist in the Centre for Psychotherapy.

The research project commenced in 2007 and is located in four sites in the UK: North London, West London, Avon and Wiltshire, and now Northern Ireland. The research cohort will number 100 patients in each of the four sites. Each site comprises:

- Four Art Therapy groups
- Four activity groups
- Control group

The project is run by a research consortium headed by the following joint-lead applicants:

Dr Mike Crawford, Clinical Senior Lecturer, Division of Neurosciences and Mental Health, Imperial College London. Chief Investigator and joint-lead applicant – project management.

Prof. Diane Waller, Professor in Art Psychotherapy. Joint-lead applicant – co-ordination and overview of the art therapy process.

Dr Helen Killaspy, Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry. Joint-lead applicant – project management.

It is anticipated that locally the project will include collaboration between:

- Dr Tony O'Neill, Psychiatry & Neurosciences, Queen's University Belfast
- Dr Caryl Sibbett, School of Education, QUB; and Centre for Psychotherapy.
- Prof Paul Williams, Centre for Psychotherapy, South & East Belfast HSS Trust
- Lord Alderdice, Centre for Psychotherapy, South & East Belfast HSS Trust
- Dr Mike Crawford, Prof. Diane Waller, Dr Helen Killaspy

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