Reviewer’s report

Title: The coMforT study of a trauma-informed mindfulness intervention for women who have experienced domestic violence and abuse: a protocol for an intervention refinement and individually randomised parallel feasibility trial

Version: 0 Date: 05 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Karen Bailey

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this protocol. This study contributes towards furthering the evidence base for interventions to address the psychological impacts of DVA among women who may not be able to access PTSD specific interventions. The protocol is well thought out, detailed and clearly written. It could be strengthened by outlining the safety procedures to be put in place to support participants, particularly as some participants will still be experiencing DVA during the study. Namely, where will the participants interviews take place? What safety procedures are in place for dealing with participant distress during or after the interviews and for ensuring safe contact between researcher and participant throughout the study, managing disclosures of abuse, risks from partner etc. What procedures are in place for sharing information about risk with DVA case worker? As an associated point, what provision will be put in place for clinical supervision for researchers carrying out interviews in order to avoid vicarious trauma?

Other (minor) amendments are suggested below:

Page 1, first para. It would be worth stating that women experience more severe and repeated DVA, and it is the multiplicity of abuse that is associated with increased prevalence rates of PTSD and other mental health conditions (see Natcen report on Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey and study by Rees et al., 2011).

Page 5, line 57, I would stress here that NICE recommended PTSD interventions are not recommended for those still in abusive relationships, something also supported by practitioners (e.g see recent qual study by Bailey et al., 2019


), and this study therefore provides an important contribution to the development of interventions for DVA survivors.

Page 12,line 49 - clarify how clinically important symptoms of PTSD are to be determine on both these measures

Page 13, line 17. Exclusion criteria of current alcohol or drug dependency. How will dependency be assessed? Check the scores for AUDIT and DUDIT which will determine dependency. If a
woman has problematic substance use but not meeting threshold of dependency - will she be then eligible?

Page 13, Sample Size for feasibility trial. Clarify that women will be involved in further qualitative interviews following their involvement in their intervention as part of the process evaluation.

Page 18, line 38, again clarify what is meant by clinically important symptoms of PTSD. Is this a threshold/cut point?

Page 19, line 42. State if a second researcher will be involved in cross-checking coding/themes etc

Page 21, line 38. I would suggest more than one contact with participant at follow-up before counting as loss to follow up.

Page 32 measures.

On the CAS - Short version - asks for frequency of abuse in past 12 months, so will need to be modified if asking at 6 months.

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