

## Islington Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Employment Trial - Patient Q&A

Support for people with long term health conditions and/ or disabilities who would like to work.

The NHS in Islington is testing a new kind of employment support for people with a disability and/ or long-term health condition who would like to get back into work.

It is known that disabled people and those who have a health condition often face long-term barriers to employment. They need tailored or additional support to enter the workplace, which is what this trial will offer.

### **Is this research for you?**

If you are unemployed and have a disability and/ or long term health condition, you can volunteer to receive personalised employment support called 'Individual Placement and Support' (IPS).

IPS has been very successful for people with mental health conditions, but this research will also try to see how well it works for people with any type of long term health condition and/ or disability.

### **What happens next if I agree to take part in the research?**

Once you agree to take part in the research, you will get an appointment with an employment specialist in a local GP surgery or community clinic. They will help you complete a short survey to gather information about your age, ethnicity, employment status and your general health and wellbeing.

The employment specialist will explain the research to you in detail and answer any further questions you have about taking part. With your consent, your details will be entered onto a computer which will then randomly allocate you into one of the two research groups. One group will receive the IPS employment service, while the other will receive information about other employment services already available in the Islington for you to access if you wish.

Researchers will then follow the progress of every participant in both groups. They will give you a call after 13, 26 and 52 weeks to find out how you are getting on. Each call will last about 12 minutes.

### **How will the IPS employment service work?**

An IPS employment specialist will provide tailored, individual support to help you into paid employment. Unlike a lot of other employment support services, you will be supported to find employment quite quickly and you will also receive ongoing support once you start work.

The IPS employment specialist will work closely with employers and healthcare professionals to help you to achieve your employment goals and help you to manage any difficulties you may experience as a consequence of your condition.

### **Why do we need a NHS research project for employment support?**

Islington is seeking to improve employment support for people with long-term health conditions, by making a stronger link between the borough's healthcare services and employment support services.

This research will enable the NHS to measure how effective IPS could be, by comparing outcomes for people who receive IPS employment support with those who do not. This research will help the borough to develop more effective employment support services and to make sure they are accessible and inclusive to anyone who wants to benefit from them.

## **Will one group receive better employment support than the other?**

Until we get the results of the research we can't say that one kind of support is more effective than the other. The purpose of the research is to find out which group of patients will experience better health or job outcomes.

We cannot guarantee participants better health or job outcomes, whichever group they are allocated to; however we can make sure that you have access to some kind of employment support if you want help to get into work.

## **Who can take part in the research?**

The research is open to any unemployed person registered with an Islington GP, aged 18+ with a long term health condition and/ or disability. Participants should not be receiving any other type of employment support.

## **Do I need to receive benefits to be eligible?**

No. Patients do not have to claim benefits to be eligible.

## **If I do receive benefits, will they be affected if I take part in the research?**

There is no possibility that taking part in the trial will adversely affect the benefits you receive.

## **Is the research part of a Government welfare-to-work scheme?**

No. This is NHS research commissioned by the Islington Clinical Commissioning Group and supported by NHS England.

It is in no way linked to benefits or sanctions. No client information from the trial will be shared with Jobcentre Plus or the Department of Work and Pensions.

We operate strict rules about data sharing (as explained below).

## **How will my personal details be protected?**

By consenting to take part, you give the NHS research team permission to securely retain your survey responses, to contact you to collect additional survey responses and to access secure and anonymous data routinely collected by your GP practice. This includes anonymised data on how you use NHS services.

Only anonymised findings will be published. This means that it will not be possible to identify any individual taking part in the trial. The information will be retained until one year after the evaluation is completed. After that period, it will be destroyed.

## **What happens if I change my mind or I don't feel able to carry on with the research?**

The scheme is entirely voluntary. You can opt out at any time and have absolutely no obligation to continue. Nobody will be made to seek employment support if they do not want to.

## **Where are the IPS employment specialists from?**

Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust have been commissioned to deliver this IPS employment support and will provide all of the employment specialists for the service. The individuals may come from a variety of backgrounds including existing employment services in Islington such as the Council's iWork service or Hillside Clubhouse, whilst the Trust may also train current NHS staff to deliver this support.

All employment specialists will be specifically trained to deliver IPS supported employment and will be directly managed by Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust.

## How long is this research going to be for?

The research is planned to run for two years however new referrals will only be taken for the first 12 months. The second 12 months of the service will be utilised to either support you to find employment or to provide you with any support required once in work.

## How do I volunteer for the research?

If you would like to volunteer to be part of this research you can either:

- Ask your GP or another healthcare professional for more information and to be referred into this service
- Contact the employment specialist directly by:
  - Email on [ipsemployment.trial@nhs.net](mailto:ipsemployment.trial@nhs.net)
  - Post to IPS employment trial, The Margarete Centre, 108 Hampstead Rd, London NW1 2LS

## Who can I speak to if I have any questions about the trial?

If you have further questions, or would like to speak with someone independent of the research team, please contact Emily Van De Pol, Associate Director for Primary Care Mental Health at Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust. Her contact details are:

**Address:** 2nd Floor, East Wing, St Pancras Hospital, 4 St Pancras Way, London NW1 0PE

**Telephone:** +44 (0)20 7561 4178

**Email:** [emily.vandepol@candi.nhs.uk](mailto:emily.vandepol@candi.nhs.uk)

## Alternative formats

This information can be made available in alternative formats, such as easy read or large print, and may be available in alternative languages, upon request. To request this, please email [ipsemployment.trial@NHS.net](mailto:ipsemployment.trial@NHS.net) or write to:

The IPS Service Manager, Margarete Centre, 108 Hampstead Rd, London, NW1 2LS.

If you would like to send us any feedback or comments on this leaflet, please email [ipsemployment.trial@NHS.net](mailto:ipsemployment.trial@NHS.net) or write to The IPS Service Manager at the address above.