

# Increasing access to CBT for psychosis: Guided self-help CBT for voices delivered by Assistant Psychologists (the GiVE2 trial)

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Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation  
Trust & University of Sussex

# Plan for today's seminar

- 1) Why do we need to increase access to CBT?
- 2) Introducing the GiVE intervention
- 3) Findings from the GiVE2 trial
- 4) Next steps for our learning

Across diagnoses + lifespan

Starting a  
conversation  
(coping)

Continuing a  
conversation  
(beliefs/relating)

Extending a  
conversation  
(relating/  
mindfulness)

Involving a wider workforce

# National Clinical Audit of Psychosis

National report for the core audit



## LIMITED RESOURCES

### Main Interventions

These are the main treatments that you might expect to be offered routinely, as appropriate to your needs, and taking into account your preferences.



#### Cognitive Behaviour Therapies

*When you're feeling down, fearful or struggling with life*

We will offer Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (a type of individual talking therapy focussed on your thoughts, feelings and how you'd like life to be different) delivered by specially trained therapists.



#### Medication Treatment

*To reduce distress and help you to stay well*

We will offer information, choice and regular reviews about taking medication, considering the most helpful medications for your experiences and lifestyle, taking into account their side effects and sticking to the lowest possible doses.



#### Family Intervention

*Specialist talking therapies for family, friends and carers*

We will offer Family Interventions to boost emotional support, understanding, problem solving & crisis management, delivered by two trained staff together.



#### Physical Health Intervention

*Support for your physical health*

We will provide advice, help in getting to your GP, signposting to local community or other health interventions, or provide these ourselves to support you with your physical health, especially diet, exercise and smoking cessation.



#### Individual Placement Support for education/work

*To help you with learning, training or work*

We will offer support with work, training or learning. We will help you to choose work, education or training to suit your needs and preferences, and will help your employer or trainer to support you to keep going.

# National Clinical Audit of Psychosis

National report for the core audit



Brief & targeted  
interventions



Briefly trained  
therapists

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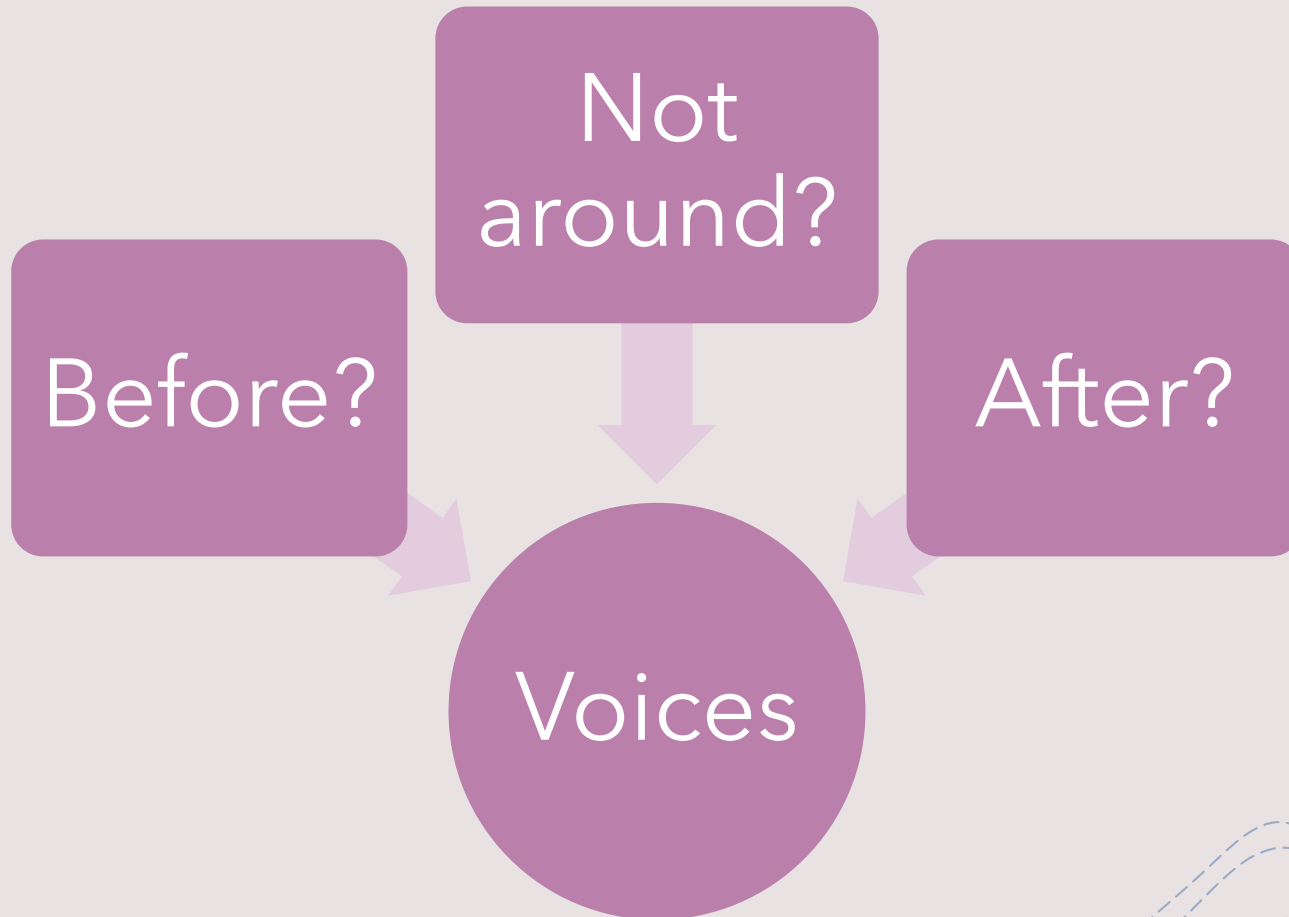
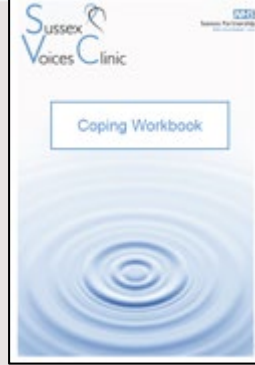
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# Coping Strategy Enhancement

(Tarrier et al., 1993, 1998)



# Coping Strategy Enhancement = small-medium amount of benefit!

(Hayward et al., 2018)

**Table 2.** Pre- and post-treatment descriptive statistics and paired sample *t*-test results with standardized effect sizes

Outcomes	Pre-CSE			Post-CSE			Paired sample <i>t</i> -test results								Complete case Std effect size ( <i>d</i> )
	<i>n</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>SD</i>	Correlation ( <i>r</i> )	Unstd effect size ( <i>m<sub>diff</sub></i> )	SE ( <i>m<sub>diff</sub></i> )	<i>m<sub>diff</sub></i>	95% CI	<i>t</i> -paired ( <i>t<sub>c</sub></i> )	<i>p</i> -value	Std effect size ( <i>d</i> )	
<b>PSYRATS-AH</b>															
Distress total	93	16.1	3.7	85	14.2	4.6	0.35	-1.73	0.54	-2.8, -0.65	-3.18	0.002	-0.39	-0.37	
Frequency total	97	9	2.4	85	8	2.6	0.45	-0.79	0.28	-1.35, -0.23	-2.79	0.006	-0.31	-0.31	
<b>DASS-21</b>															
Depression total	95	13.2	5.8	85	12.1	6.3	0.71	-1.26	0.49	-2.24, -0.28	-2.56	0.012	-0.21	-0.21	
Anxiety total	95	11.1	5.2	85	10.2	5.4	0.80	-1.14	0.36	-1.87, -0.42	-3.13	0.002	-0.22	-0.22	
Stress total	94	13.1	5	84	12.5	4.6	0.67	-0.76	0.42	-1.6, 0.07	-1.82	0.073	-0.16	-0.16	
<b>CHOICE-SF</b>															
Severity mean	98	3.9	1.9	84	4.5	2	0.76	0.65	0.14	0.36, 0.94	4.48	<0.001	0.34	0.34	
Goal rating	90	2.9	2.3	68	5.3	2.4	0.27	2.42	0.39	1.62, 3.22	6.13	<0.001	0.74	0.91	
<b>SWEMWBS</b>															
SWEMWBS total	91	18	4.7	83	18.6	4.9	0.63	0.39	0.46	-0.53, 1.32	0.85	0.398	0.08	0.10	



# ... irrespective of the training of the therapist

(Clarke, Jones & Hayward, 2021)

						Mean difference (95% CI)			
	Mean difference	Count (n)	SEM	Test statistic (z)	p-value	Lower	Upper	Pre-post correlation	Cohen's d
HPSVQ (complete cases)									
Baseline - PL1 (all therapists)	-1.26	92	0.34	-3.76	<0.001	-1.92	-0.60	0.555	-0.44
Baseline - PL1 (highly trained)	-1.31	48	0.46	-2.82	0.005	-2.22	-0.40	0.532	-0.48
Baseline - PL1 (briefly trained)	-1.20	44	0.49	-2.48	0.013	-2.16	-0.25	0.566	-0.40
Interaction	-0.11	92	0.67	-0.16	0.87	-1.42	1.21	0.500 <sup>1</sup>	-0.04
CHOICE-SF (complete cases)									
Baseline - PL1 (all therapists)	0.99	79	0.15	6.60	<0.001	0.70	1.28	0.696	0.70
Baseline - PL1 (highly trained)	1.13	41	0.21	5.40	<0.001	0.72	1.53	0.578	0.82
Baseline - PL1 (briefly trained)	0.85	38	0.22	3.91	<0.001	0.42	1.27	0.787	0.53
Interaction	0.28	79	0.30	0.93	0.352	-0.31	0.87	0.500 <sup>1</sup>	0.17



.... but the conversation will need to  
continue

PSYRATS  
Distress scale  
MCID = 3

• Hayward et al. (2018)  
= 1.9 point reduction

HPSVQ  
Negative Impact  
scale  
MCID = 2

• Clarke et al. (2021)  
= 1.2 point reduction

# Plan for today's seminar

2) Introducing the GiVE intervention



# Guided self-help CBT for Voices (the 'GiVE' intervention)

Introduction  
& Coping

'Me'  
Beliefs about self

'My Voices'  
Beliefs about voices

'My relationships'  
Relating to voices and  
other people

Moving  
forward

Session 1  
(Chapter 4)

Session 2  
(Chapter 2)

Session 3  
(Chapter 6)

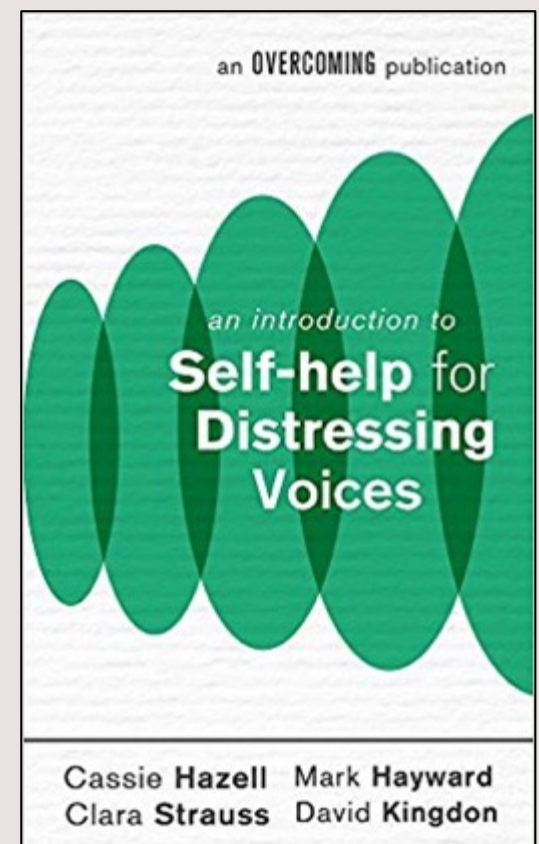
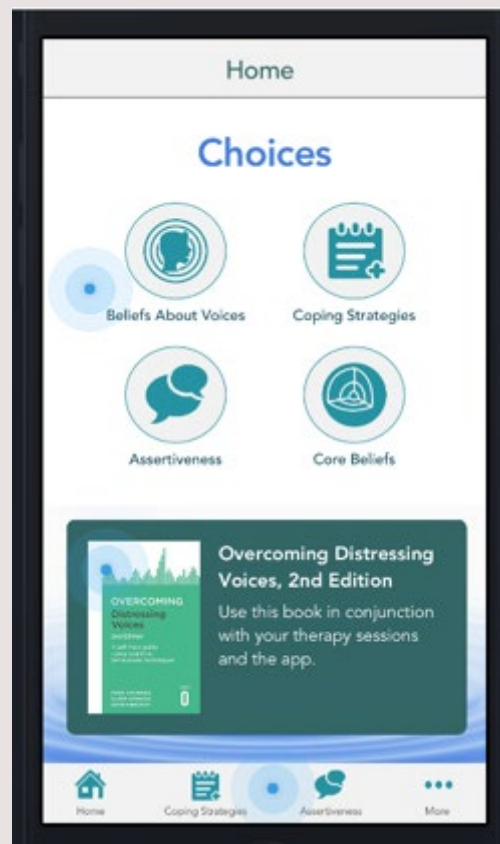
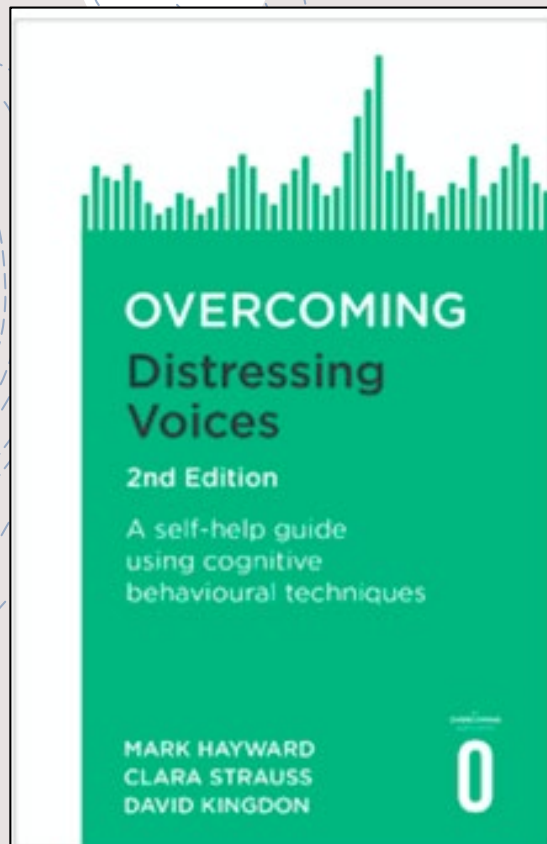
Session 4  
(Chapter 1)

Session 5  
(Chapter 5)

Session 6  
(Chapter 3)

Session 7  
(Chapter 7)

Session 8  
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# A 'blended' intervention





# Guided self-help CBT for Voices (the 'GiVE' intervention)

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# The Confirmation Bias

Beliefs (I am..., voices are...) are typically **not accurate** – we develop beliefs as a way of making sense of our life experiences

However, the **confirmation bias** (that we all have) means that we all tend to:

- Search for evidence that supports our beliefs
- Either ignore or distort evidence that does not fit with our beliefs

We can therefore **carefully gather and examine all of the available evidence**, including the evidence we usually don't notice because of the confirmation bias

This is **not positive thinking** – it is a process of re-evaluating beliefs in the light of **all** the evidence





Our minds want things to stay the same!



**THERE'S JUST ONE**



**Playing the Curious Detective**

**MORE THING...**

The negative core belief that I hold about myself is that . . .

‘I am stupid,’

How certain are you that this negative core belief is true?

‘Right *now* I believe this core belief is true with about 100% certainty.’

After reviewing the evidence, how certain are you that this negative core belief is true?

‘Right *now* I believe this core belief is true with about 92 % certainty.’

Evidence and experiences that meant this negative core belief is not completely true all the time . . .

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Showed a colleague how to do a task                            |
| 2 | Babysat for friend - who asked me to do it again               |
| 3 | Cooked a meal for self and partner last week - and tasted good |
| 4 | Boss gave me extra responsibility and praised my work          |
| 5 |  |
| 6 |  |

# Three ways to ask questions, gather facts and re-evaluate the accuracy of...



Negative  
beliefs  
about self



Positive  
beliefs  
about self



Beliefs  
about  
voices





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# Relating with voices – endorsed by hearers?

Commanding (67%)

Derogatory and critical (66%)

Running commentary (55%)

Repetitive themes and content (72%)

Helpful and guiding (47%)

In a relationship with the hearer (64%)

$N = 199$ , users of mental health service or private psychiatrist with auditory hallucinations and any psychiatric diagnosis.

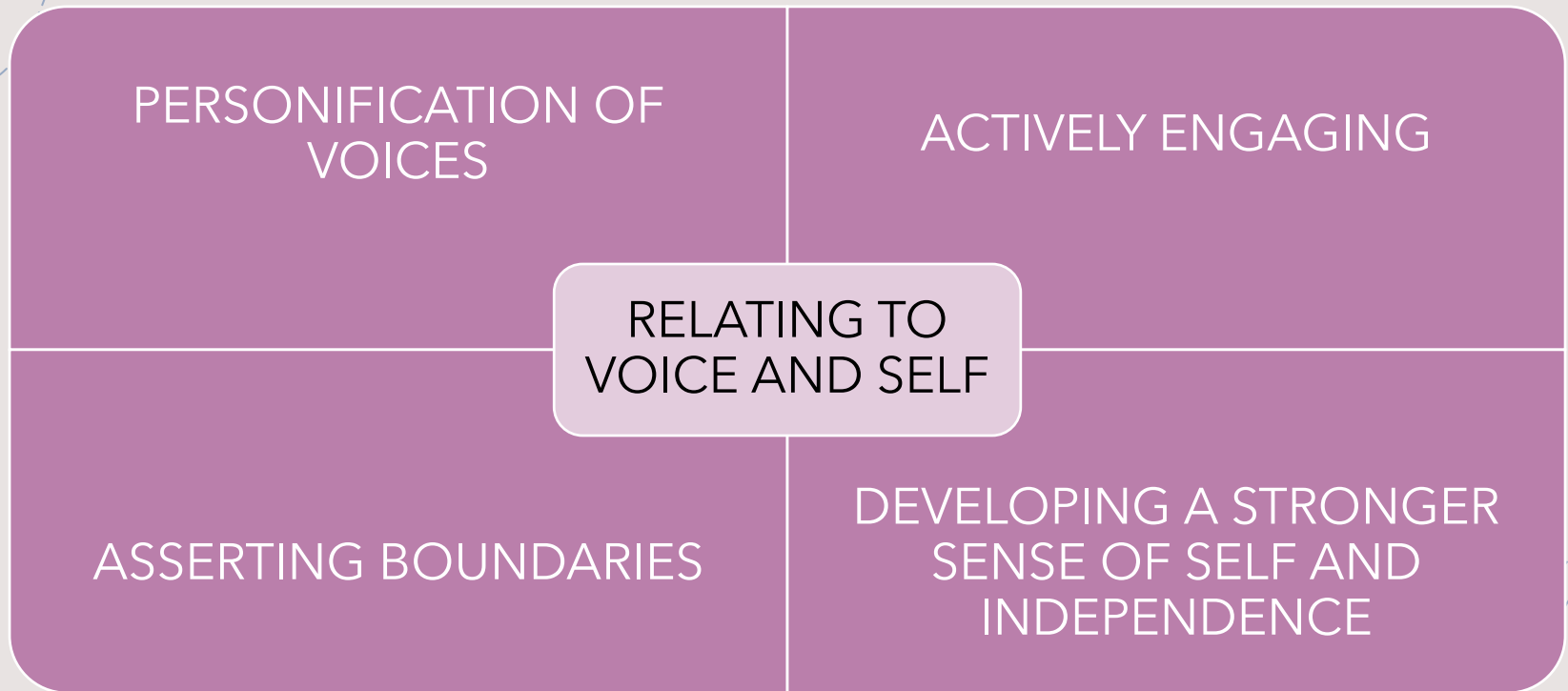
McCarthy-Jones et al. (2014)

# 'Natural' responses to a threatening other!



# What can facilitate positive relating to voices?

(Jackson, Hayward & Cooke, 2011)





# Making assertive responding available as a third option



Passive

passive

- Giving in!
- Allowing the needs and views of others to be prioritized
- Natural and instinctive ('flight')



Assertive

assertive

- Calmly and respectfully standing up for my own needs and views
- Un-natural and requires effort!



Aggressive

aggressive

- Fighting back!
- Prioritizing my own needs and views to the neglect of the needs and views of others
- Natural and instinctive ('fight')

# Select a conversation and script a different response

They say...	I respond by... Feelings, actions, what I say	Is my response: passive, aggressive or assertive?	An assertive response would be...
You are useless and worthless, and deserve to die	Feelings: frightened	Passive	I hear what you're saying...I have made a lot of mistakes and do feel useless sometimes.
	Actions: go to bed		
	What I say: try to say nothing		I see things a bit differently.....and have evidence to support my view

# Use roleplay to bring the conversation to life!

- + The patient in their 'own chair':
  - + saying the assertive statements previously created - and reflecting upon the experience.
  - + Being aware of body language and how to adopt an assertive posture.
  - + Drawing upon evidence to support their view.





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# Moving forwards



- + Review of learning
- + Call to action
- + Goal planning
- + Small steps...



## Guided self-help cognitive-behaviour Intervention for VoiceEs (GiVE): Results from a pilot randomised controlled trial in a transdiagnostic sample

Cassie M. Hazell<sup>a</sup>, Mark Hayward<sup>a,b</sup>, Kate Cavanagh<sup>a</sup>, Anna-Marie Jones<sup>b</sup>, Clara Strauss<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

**Results:** Recruitment and retention was feasible with low study (3.6%) and therapy (14.3%) dropout. There were large, statistically significant between-group effects on the primary outcome of voice-impact ( $d = 1.78$ ; 95% CIs: 0.86–2.70), which exceeded the minimum clinically important difference. Large, statistically significant effects were found on a number of secondary and mechanism measures.

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Accepted 6 October 2017

Available online 13 October 2017

### Keywords:

CBT

Psychosis

Distressing voices

Auditory hallucinations

RCT

Self-help

16 sessions of CBTp is recommended in treatment guidelines. Better CBTp could improve access as the same number of therapists could see more patients. In addition, focusing on single psychotic symptoms, such as auditory hallucinations ('voices'), rather than on psychosis more broadly, may yield greater benefits.

**Method:** This pilot RCT recruited 28 participants (with a range of diagnoses) from NHS mental health services who were distressed by hearing voices. The study compared an 8-session guided self-help CBT intervention for distressing voices with a wait-list control. Data were collected at baseline and at 12 weeks with post-therapy assessments conducted blind to allocation. Voice-impact was the pre-determined primary outcome. Secondary outcomes were depression, anxiety, wellbeing and recovery. Mechanism measures were self-esteem, beliefs about self, beliefs about voices and voice-relating.

**Results:** Recruitment and retention was feasible with low study (3.6%) and therapy (14.3%) dropout. There were large, statistically significant between-group effects on the primary outcome of voice-impact ( $d = 1.78$ ; 95% CIs: 0.86–2.70), which exceeded the minimum clinically important difference. Large, statistically significant effects were found on a number of secondary and mechanism measures.

**Conclusions:** Large effects on the pre-determined primary outcome of voice-impact are encouraging, and criteria for progressing to a definitive trial are met. Significant between-group effects on measures of self-esteem, negative beliefs about self and beliefs about voice omnipotence are consistent with these being mechanisms of change and this requires testing in a future trial.

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# Candidate workforces for the briefly trained therapists

## Case managers

(Jolley et al., 2015; Harding et al., 2018)



## Graduate psychologists

('Assistant Psychologists' in the UK)







# Feasibility RCT

(Hayward et al., 2020)



## GiVE intervention

- N=30
- Delivered by APs




## Supportive Counselling

- N=30
- Delivered by APs



## Treatment- As-Usual

- N=30



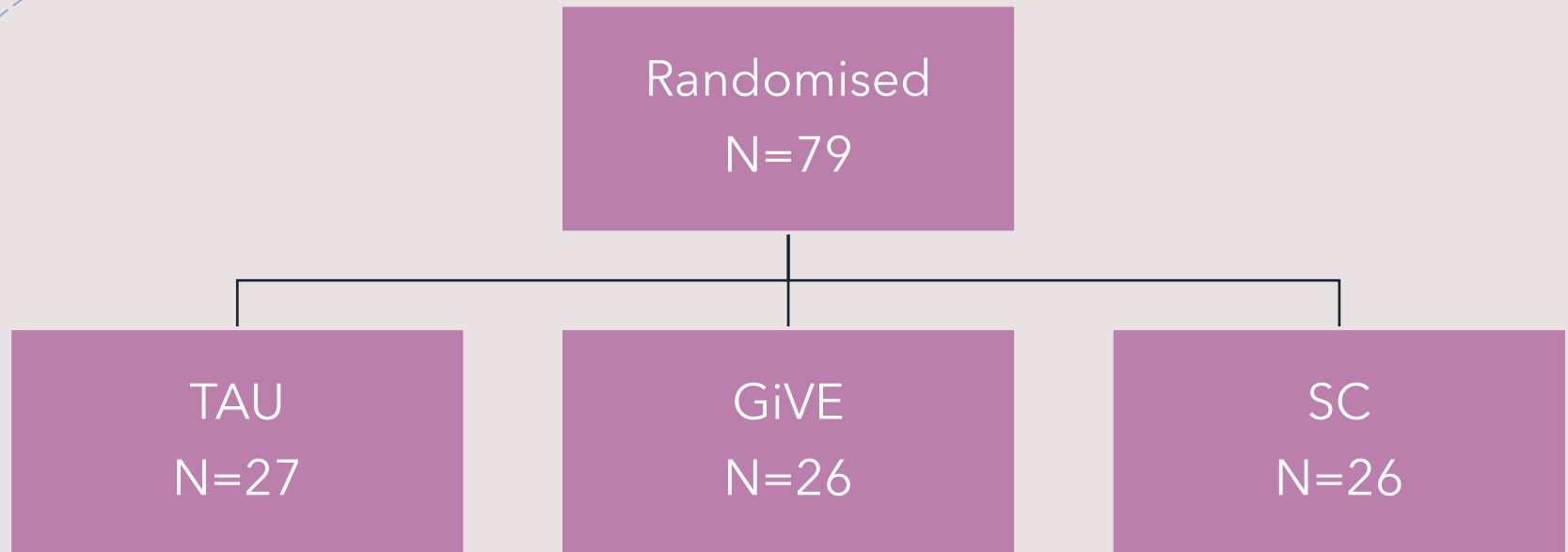
What have We  
LEARNED?

So far...

# Plan for today's seminar

3) Findings from the GiVE2 trial

# Can we recruit patients?



	TAU (N=27)	GiVE (N=26)	SC (N=26)
Age (years; SD)	42 (13)	40 (11)	38 (15)
Gender			
Male	19 (70%)	15 (58%)	11 (42%)
Female	8 (30%)	11 (42%)	15 (58%)
Ethnicity			
White British/White Other	23 (85%)	23 (89%)	20 (77%)
Black/Asian & Minority Ethnic	3 (11%)	3 (11%)	4 (15%)
Other	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	2 (8%)
Marital status			
Single/ Separated/ Divorced	24 (89%)	18 (69%)	20 (80%)
Married/Civil Partnership/ Cohabiting	3 (11%)	8 (31%)	5 (20%)
Whether in employment			
Yes	2 (7%)	2 (8%)	1 (4%)
No	25 (93%)	24 (92%)	25 (96%)
Time since onset of voices (years; SD)	22 (11)	22 (13)	23 (13)

# Therapist fidelity to intervention and supervision protocols

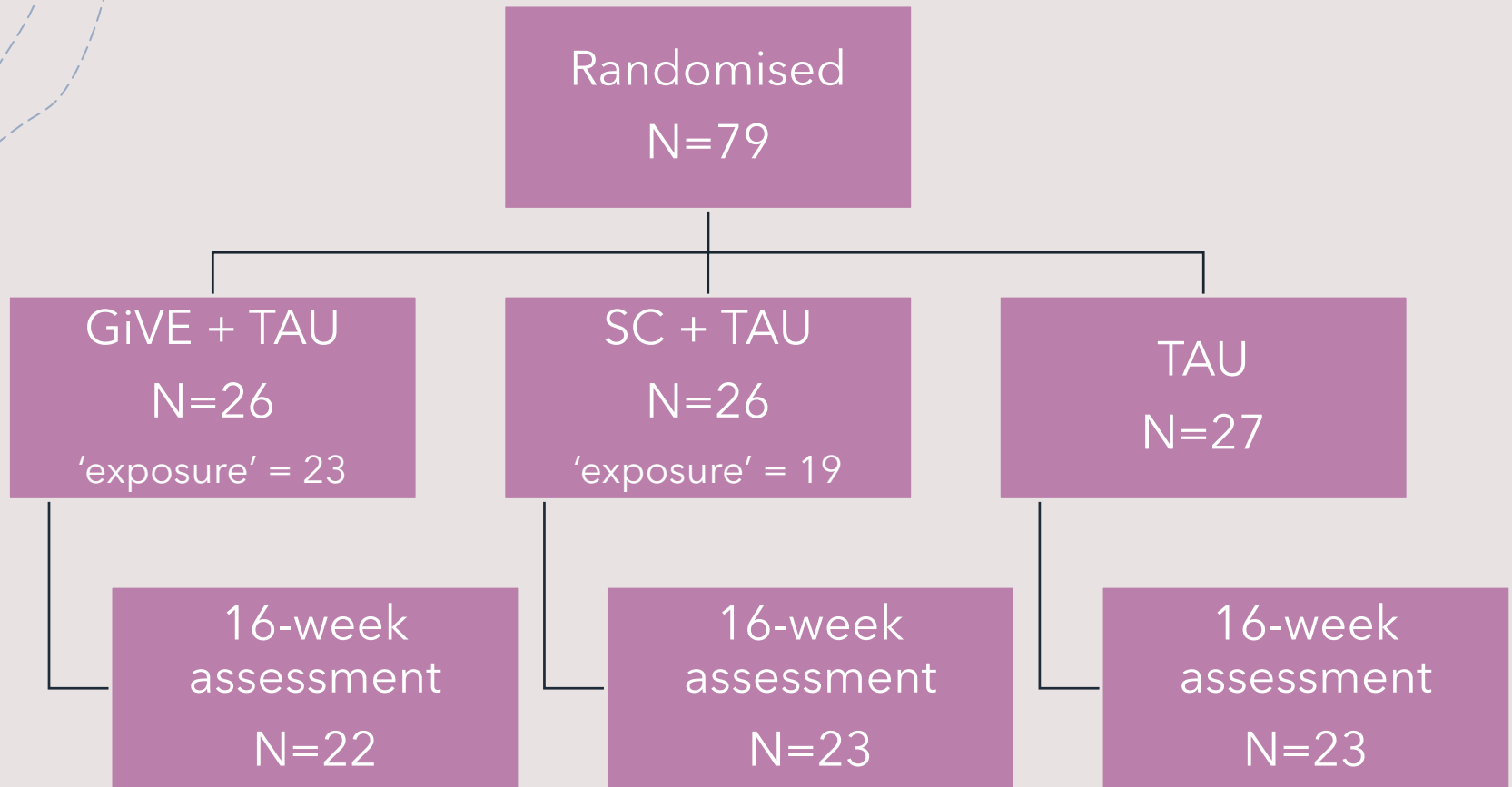
Fidelity to intervention was assessed by completion of self-report session checklists



Fidelity to supervision was assessed by attendance at weekly clinical supervision

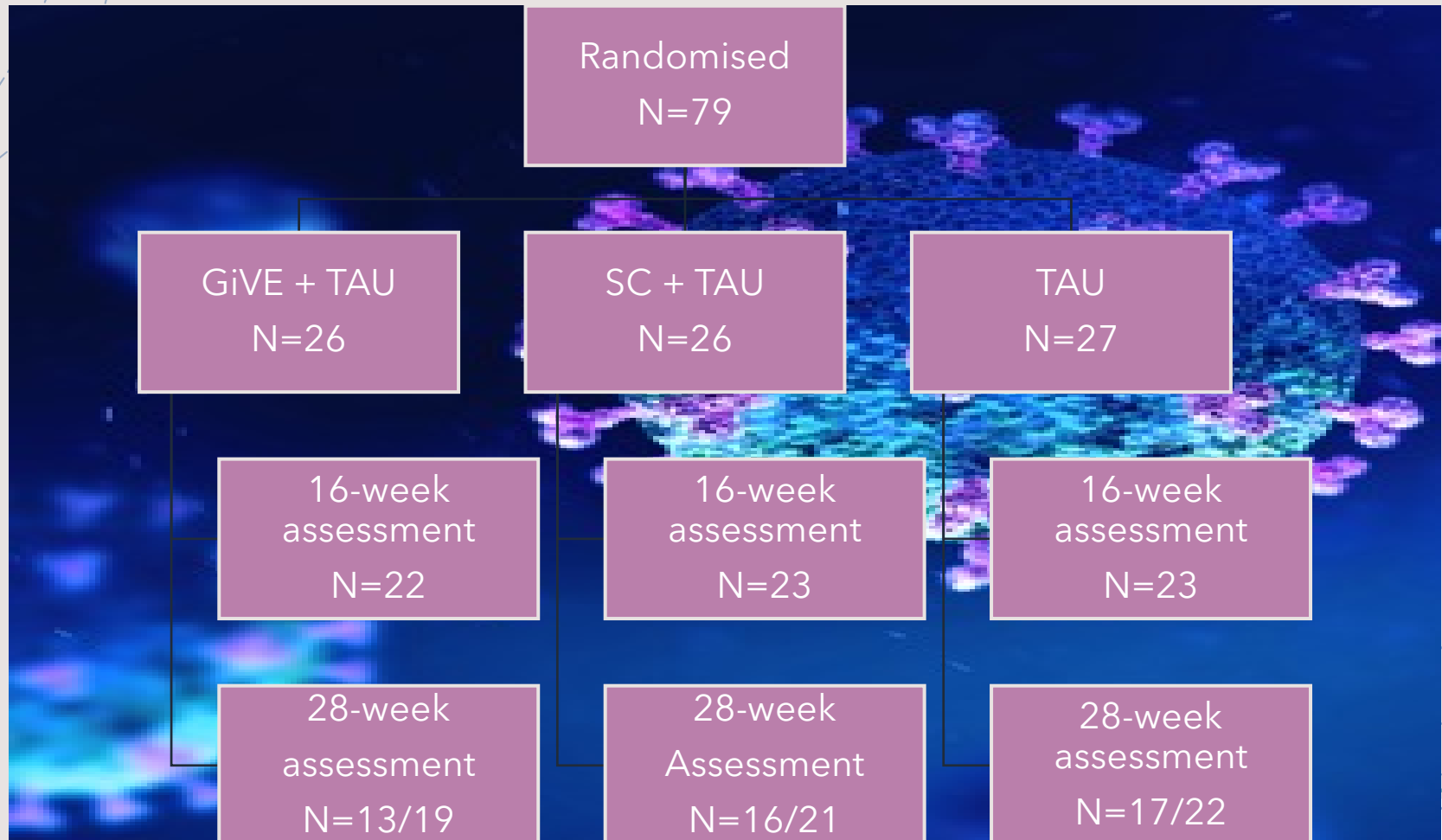



# Can we retain participants to 16-weeks?





# Can we retain participants to 28-weeks?





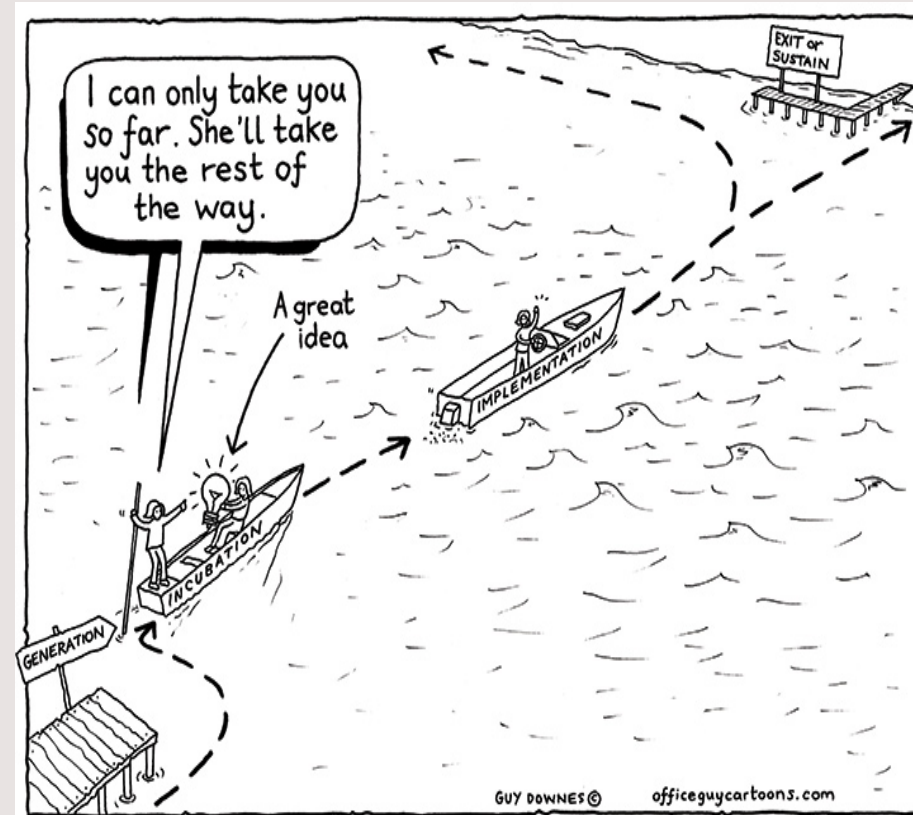
The findings from the primary outcome analysis are currently under peer review and cannot be distributed. We will share these findings as soon as they have been peer-reviewed.

# Process Evaluation study

Following MRC guidelines aims to understand real functioning of intervention, by examining

- +Implementation,
- +mechanisms of impact,
- + contextual factors.

Complementary to outcomes evaluation



# Process Evaluation Methodology

Explored attitudes of key stakeholders:

- + Referring clinicians
- + AP Therapists
- + Service users



# Process evaluation: methodology

## Service users

- Aim - explore experience of receiving GiVE/SC
- 10 GiVE/10 SC participants
- Early and late experiences
- Interviews, transcribed and analysed thematically

## Assistant Psychologists

- Aim - to explore experience of delivering GiVE
- 4 APs early delivery and 2 late delivery
- Interviews, transcribed and analysed thematically

## Clinicians

- Aim - explore attitudes to GiVE, psychological therapies, RCT, referrals
- 7 clinicians in Pennine and 7 in Sussex
- Interviews, transcribed and analysed thematically

# Process evaluation: views of GiVE participants

## Positive hopes and expectations for GiVE/therapy

- Hopes for allocation to GiVE/therapy
- Expectations of positive outcomes

## Positive experience of assessments, start and therapy

- Acceptance of length and challenges of assessment
- Important role of GiVE-2 therapist
- Workbook essential beyond therapy

## Positive Impacts of GiVE

- Different experience surpassed expectations
- Learning tools
- Increasing understanding
- Changing outlook

# Process evaluation: views of SC participants

Strong alliance	Resolving allocation issue	Influences on outcome	Positive vs adverse outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skilled therapist</li><li>• Safe space</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surprise at getting anything</li><li>• My problems are other than voices</li><li>• Shape SC/Self-help to voice focus (buying book)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expectations</li><li>• Trust/openness in talking</li><li>• Timing</li><li>• Acceptance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Positive outlook, coping, voices, wellbeing, social thinking</li><li>• Adverse effect on voices, nightmares, mood</li><li>• Dislike disclosing, repetition, being short on things to say</li></ul>

# Process evaluation: Views of Clinicians

## Value and positioning of GiVE

- Positive for access and well-being outcomes
- A foundation to psychological therapy

## Challenges for GiVE and research

- Need for embedding in team practice
- Need for referral criteria and reminders
- Tight on time

## Critical components of GiVE

- Trust in personal qualities of therapist
- Supervision and competence
- Manualised intervention focus makes AP delivery possible



# Process evaluation: Views of AP therapists

Training was  
comprehensive and  
thorough

Supervision  
supported the  
growth of confidence

Workbook:  
supportive  
framework vs  
sometimes restrictive

Short modular  
therapy makes sense  
vs challenges with  
time, match and flow

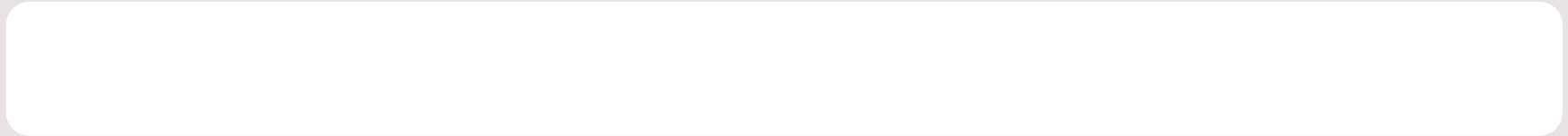
APs can deliver and  
develop skills

# Next steps from process evaluation



- + PhD studentship
- + Investigating models of implementation of graduate psychologist roles in the NHS
- + Investigating qualities of AP that engender trust in clinicians and service users

# Plan for today's seminar



4) Next steps for our learning



# Changes for GiVE3

Removal of the SC arm

Adaptations to the GiVE intervention

Flexible delivery of the GiVE intervention

More robust assessment of therapist fidelity

# Curiosity beyond interventions



National survey of patient preferences  
for how CBT for voices is offered



Qualitative study of patient and  
clinician views about the outcomes that  
CBT for voices should achieve

# Thanks to the research team, our collaborators and funder

- David Fowler
- Clara Strauss
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- Kate Cavanagh
- Katherine Berry
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- Stephen Bremner
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