

**Interview Therapists**

Research Title: Exploring the lived experiences of repeated relapse among drug service users and drug therapists in the UK

Research Aim: To understand therapists’ second-hand lived experiences of having witnessed a client relapse multiple times from recovery back into drug misuse

Researcher Note: Focus on experience of person and what it means to them

If participant becomes upset:

* Pause recording
* Ask if s/he is ok, offer some water, tea, coffee
* Offer to stop the interview or to reschedule
* Offer contact info for relevant people to talk to
* **Remember: YOU ARE NOT THEIR THERAPIST/SUPPORT WORKER**

**Interview Guide (followed flexibly)**

Open with introduction of project, of yourself and explain informed consent. Once the consent form has been signed, start recording.

Q1: So (Name) you have offered to take part in this study because you identified as having witnessed some of your clients relapse multiple times during your work together?

Can you briefly tell me how many years you have been working as a therapist and roughly how many clients had 2 or more relapses during the time you worked with them?

Can you tell me about the object you brought in?

Q1.1: Can you tell me how this object connects to your indirect experience of relapse?

Q1.2: What made you choose this object?

Q2: What is your understanding of relapse – how would you define it?

Q3: What did it feel like to you when you first heard about your client having relapsed again? *(Probe for sensations in body, emotions or thoughts)*

Q3.1: Did this change with the number of clients you had who relapsed? How does it feel like when you now hear about your client’s relapse?

Q4: Can you describe what your client’s relapse means to you personally? What effect does it have on you personally?

Q4.1: How do you manage the news of your client relapsing again? How do you process this experience yourself? *(Probe for reflective processes, supervision or self-care etc)*

Q5: Can you tell me what effect this has had on your work as a therapist? *(Probe for sense of responsibility for that outcome)*

Q5.1: Does it affect how you see yourself as a therapist? How co-workers see you?

Q5.2: Do you continue to work with that same client? What does that make you feel?

Q5.3: How do you work through a relapse with your client? (*Probe for attitude towards client)*

Q6: Is there anything else about your experience that you feel is important for people to know?

Recap, thanks and close.