

# What is the BeST? Trial and why are we doing it?



## Our question

What is the best way to improve the **mental health** and **placement stability** of pre-school children who have come into foster care because of abuse and/or neglect?

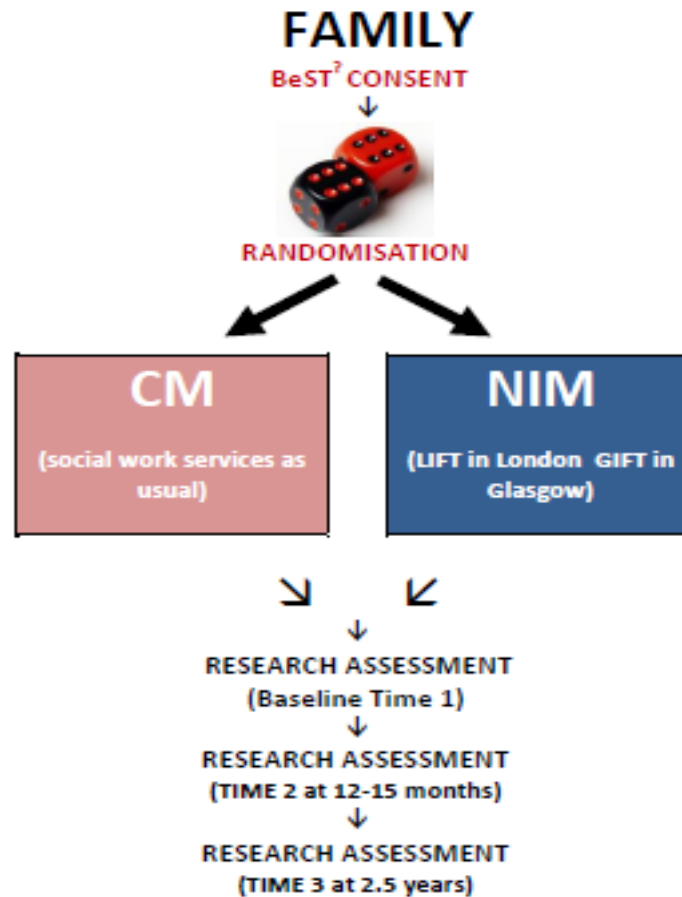


Is an **infant mental health model** or a **social work model** the best way to achieve this?





## HOW DOES THE STUDY WORK?

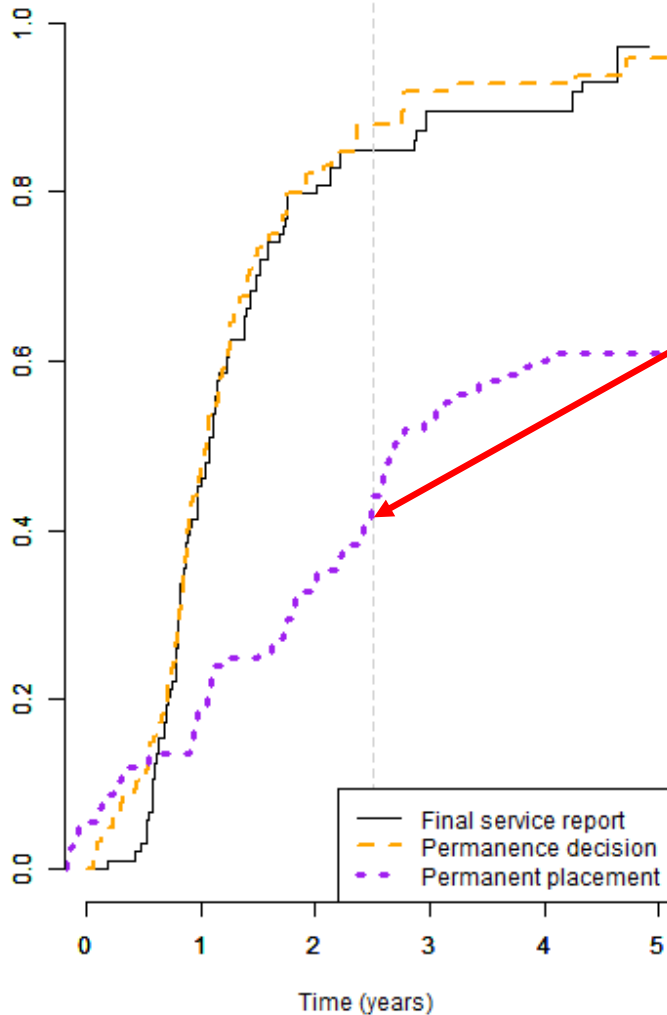




300 families recruited already – aim to finish  
recruiting end of this year

## Our outcomes include:

- >Child mental health at 2.5 years after care entry (SDQ)
- >Parent-carer/parent relationship functioning (PIR-GAS)
- >Time to Permanent Placement



Only 40% of the first 124 children were in a permanent placement 2.5 years after coming into the study...



## Process evaluation





## How is GIFT viewed by key groups in the system?

- ★ GIFT evidence was seen to add more **CLOUT** to a recommendation but - on the flipside - the GIFT approach and information produced was also perceived to have the potential to evoke **DOUBT** about the recommendation when viewed in a legal context

‘Clout/Doubt’



**Figure 1: The relative impact of NIM versus SWSAU evidence**

