

Development and evaluation of an inclusivity package for recruitment and retention of South Asian women in a gestational diabetes trial

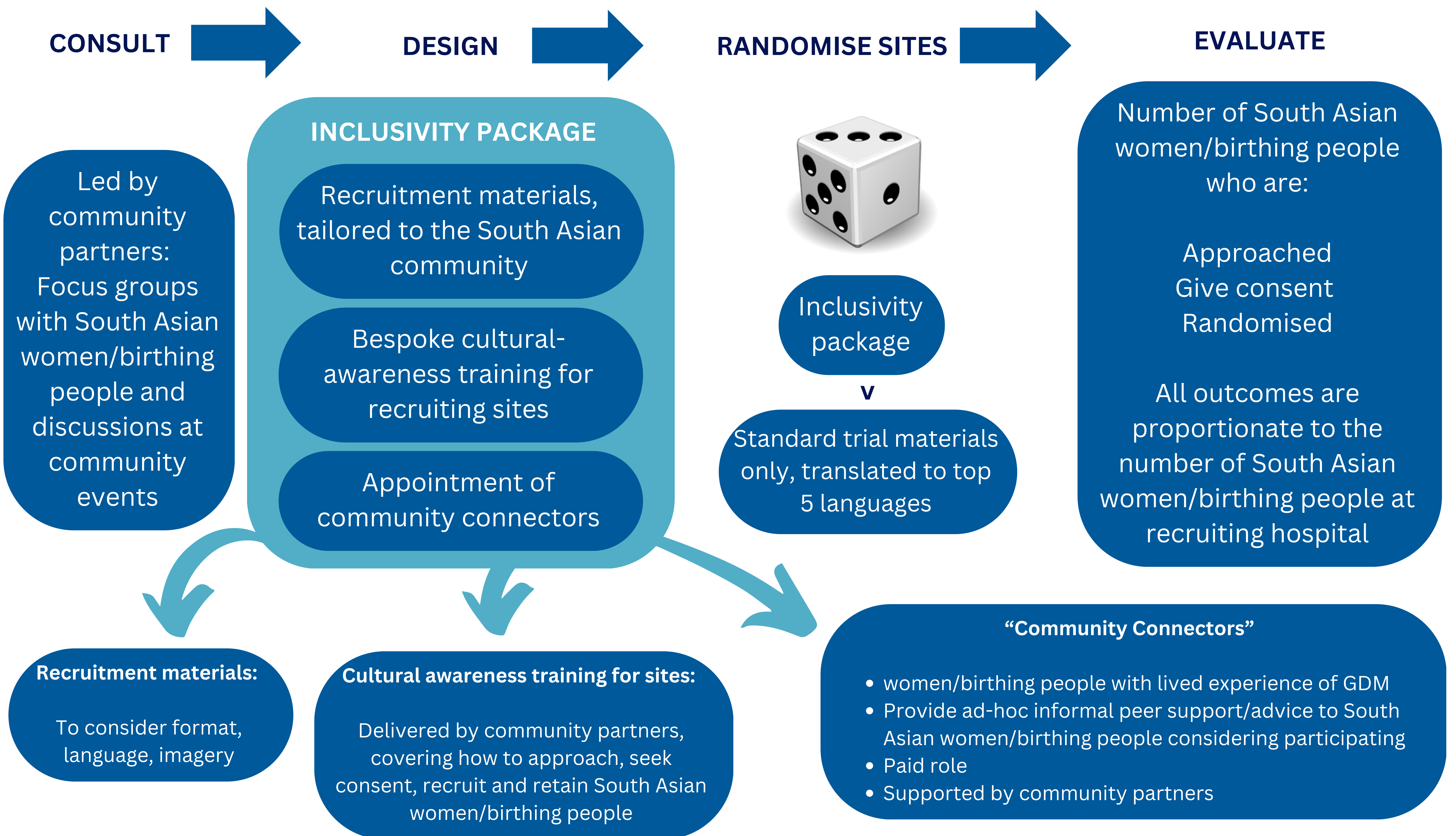
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Background

1 in 8 pregnant women/birthing people are affected by gestational diabetes (GDM). South Asian women/birthing people are twice as likely to be affected than White European women. The GILD Trial has been funded to evaluate whether less tight blood glucose control during labour is no worse than tight control for women/birthing people with GDM, in terms of low blood glucose in the baby (neonatal hypoglycaemia) and admission for neonatal care.

In any clinical trial it is important for participants to be representative of the population of interest and it is therefore crucial South Asian women are included in the GILD Trial. In partnership with community collaborators, South Asian Health Action and the haPPIE research group, we will conduct a Study Within a Trial (SWAT) to design and evaluate an “inclusivity package” with the aim of recruiting and retaining South Asian women in the GILD Trial.

Methods



Discussion

As South Asian women/birthing people are disproportionately affected by GDM, it is crucial we target efforts to include them in the GILD Trial. To do this, we must work with community partners and listen carefully to South Asian women/birthing people, to understand how we can best serve their needs. Patient and public involvement has been embedded throughout the development of this trial and will continue. The GILD Trial is due to start on 1st October 2024, with recruitment planned to start in Summer 2025. The SWAT will be registered on the SWAT store (Northern Ireland Hub for Trials Methodology Research) and results will be available in 2027. If the inclusivity package increases recruitment and retention of South Asian women, it could be used in future maternity trials.

