

# **Barriers to HIV health inclusion for sex workers in London**

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# Background



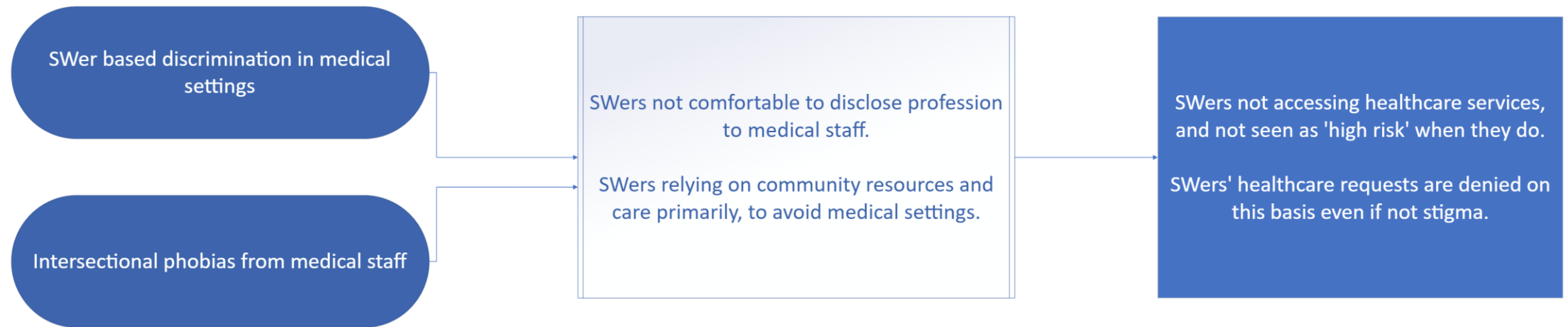
- This peer-led research details the experience of sex workers (Swers) in London when accessing HIV support from sexual health services (SHS)
- Aims:
  - improve understandings of common barriers
  - formulate recommendations for practitioners.

Research included in this presentation was developed through funding from UKHSA via a UCLH commission and does not necessarily reflect the views of UKHSA or UCLH.

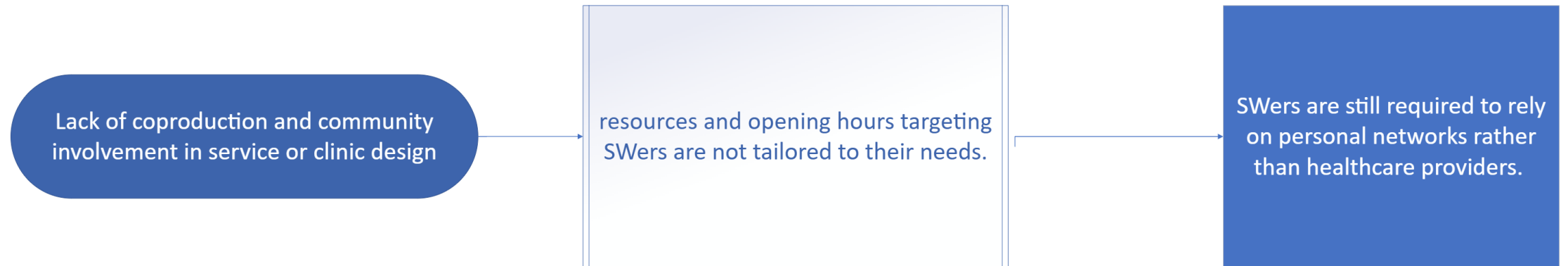
# Methodology

- Interviews with lived experience staff from within Spectra
- CPG design, delivery and write up coproduced with a team of researchers who had personal experience of in-person sex work.
- Two community participation groups (CPGs) with people who had experience of in-person sex work. 21 participants were selected from 60 applications to provide a range of demographics, and types of sex work.
- Attendant counsellor and food/drink provided for in-person group, as well as a hang out space afterwards for those who wanted to spend time together.
- All researchers were paid, and all CPG participants were compensated £50 for their time.

# Barriers 1



# Barriers 2



# Facilitators 1

- Provision of sex worker only drop-ins, by virtue of entering the space an individual is eligible. Longer hours and later in the day.
- Online and in-person services, not directly in an individual's workplace. Keep a consistent schedule. Times, locations and updates on services are accurate online. Explicitly signpost sex worker friendly services, and privacy policies.
- Resource provision includes: self-testing kits, latex free condoms in multiple sizes, menstrual sponges (Beppy), extra resources shared for networks.

# Facilitators 2

- Specific advice and assistance given when requested – no shock, judgement, lectures or gossip about service users.
- Engage with existing peer-led sex worker only spaces as expert consultants, leading staff members in strategic and delivery based roles should have lived experience and expertise.
- No forced conversations about exiting sex work.
- Staff should be informed and trained to signpost service users to services for housing, immigration, disability etc. when this is requested.

# Thank you

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