

Integrated Care Models

Evaluating Mersey Care NHS Trust's Mental Health Social Work Integrated Support & Development programme

OVERVIEW

The aim of this project was to capture confidence in the role of mental health social work interventions, thinking and approaches in integrated settings.

The project set out to answer three questions:

1. To what extent does Mersey Care's Social Worker development plan reflect national policy, standards and legislation?
2. Does Mersey Care's development plan for mental health social workers meet the;
 - continuing professional development needs of social workers in an integrated workforce?
 - needs of service users, families and carers?
3. What is a transferable model for the future training and development of mental health social workers in other integrated settings?

PROCESS

The programme of learning was based on three stages:

1. To complete a review of the literature in relation to mental health social work in integrated settings, in the context of development and training needs
2. Review and compare local policies, standards and social work workforce developments with the current literature, in relation to mental health social work in integrated settings
3. Compare the views of practitioners and people who access services with what is found in the literature to evaluate the effectiveness of Mersey Care's model

LEARNING

This learning from each of these stages formed the basis of a final report and recommendations that provided a detailed understanding of best practice in relation to integrated working for social work practitioners.

The process provided learning that was able to;

1. Identify good practice in the existing model
2. Identify gaps and develop strategies for strengthening the model further
3. Make recommendations for a transferable model of training and development across other integrated settings