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Service user and carer involvement in mental health training, education and research

Findings from a study conducted in West Yorkshire





The study

- A literature review
- A scoping study of involvement in mental health training, education & research
 - Survey of senior NHS managers, PPI leads
 - □ Interviews with service users & carers
 - □ Focus groups with service users & carers
- 4 Universities
- 3 specialist mental health Trusts



Literature review

- Policy
- Involvement in mental health education & training
- Involvement in research
- Effectiveness of involvement
- Costs



Findings from lit review

- Lots of policy guidance
- No consistency in applying it
- Lot of involvement in training, education & research but ad hoc
- Clearer methodologies in research than training and education
- Benefits include impact on student practice and to service user/carer
- Barriers exist



Field work

- 12 (15) out of 18 responses to questionnaire; 5 NHS, 7 University;
- 7 (8) service user and carer interviews;
- 3 focus groups.



Scoping study findings

- Policy
 - □ NHS has them in place; University unclear
 - Ad hoc interpretation
- Recruitment of service users/carers
 - Mandatory vs belief in value
 - Inclusivity vs personal approach
 - □ Skills match
 - 'one thing leads to another'



Findings 2

- Resources
 - Range available: staff, support, training
 - Not used
- Support & training
 - □ Little formal or specific training
 - Meeting needs; timeliness
 - Individual needs
 - Personal responsibility for well being



Training opportunities offered

SUC specific	Formal	Informal	Research	Other
-Developing student case studies -Workshops: 'Patients as Trainers'; 'Patient Learning Journey'	-Meeting skills -Presentation skills -Recruitment and Selection -Mentoring -Access to university training	-Open days / taster sessions -One-to-one work depending on need	-Research skills training, peer review, - -interview	-Induction -Self Awareness -Understanding University process



Findings 3

- Payment
 - Being valued
 - Organisations have resources
 - Inconsistency
 - Choice



Value and impact of involvement

- Managers valued input
 - □ Real lived experience
 - □ Added value
 - Strategic direction
 - Service delivery
- Lack of feedback & communication
- Lack of evidence of impact
- No clear measures to measure impact



Conclusions & recommendations

- Evidence of good practice
- Need shared understanding of involvement activity
- Access not equitable
- Support and training needs are individual
- Outcome measures of impact needed