

DUAL DIAGNOSIS NETWORK

CITY OF LEEDS

Newsletter

Issue 5 - September 2009



Information on the project and local developments can be found on the web-site:

<http://www.dual-diagnosis.org.uk/>

Newsflash

Dual Diagnosis Care Pathways Guide:

A care pathways guide has been developed in consultation with numerous services in Leeds. This guide contains a brief directory of services and also proposes some decision rules and guidelines around: screening, referrals and care co-ordination.

The Dual Diagnosis care co-ordination protocol developed by partner organisations in Leeds during 2007 was revised in order to reflect recent changes in care pathways and service developments. This revised protocol is intended to be used alongside the new care pathways guide.

Both documents can be downloaded via links at the top left of the Dual Diagnosis web-site.

Management of Dual Diagnosis in in-patient care services:

A focus group involving in-patient care staff in discussions regarding Dual Diagnosis took place in June 2009 at the Becklin Centre.

Feedback from this group informed the recent development of an action plan aiming to: (1) conduct a training needs analysis, (2) organise dual diagnosis training, (3) revise and update in-patient policies on the management of substance use in wards.

A small project team is leading this between 2009—2010.

For more information contact: Janice Gann, Acute In-patient Service Manager, Becklin Centre

University of Leeds: Dual Diagnosis evaluation study

Background: The city-wide DD Strategy Group commissioned the Leeds Institute of Health Sciences to undertake a study on the barriers and facilitators to effective care.

Aims: The main aim was to investigate the views and experiences of people receiving care by services that are part of the DD Network in Leeds. An analysis of service provider confidence and recognised training needs was also undertaken.

Methods: Ten in-depth interviews were conducted with service users, and one hundred and sixteen staff from a range of services provided feedback on their confidence and current training needs.

Results: The 'mainstreaming' agenda and training developments linked to the DD Network were seen favourably, and some examples of positive practice were highlighted. A number of barriers to care were also identified: Inconsistencies on who gets what treatment and when, which is compounded by a complex treatment system and unclear information in the public domain about referral pathways. General lack of psychological help for people with addictions and support options outside of office hours. Poor communication between some services was also suggested. A number of recommendations are proposed, which have informed the revision of the Dual Diagnosis Project's objectives for 2009—2010. A detailed summary is available at:

<http://dual-diagnosis.org.uk/doc/DD.Evaluation.Summary.pdf>

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Harm reduction interventions for drug users with Schizophrenia

Background: According to a local survey conducted in 2008, 51% of clients with a diagnosis of Schizophrenia under the care of Assertive Outreach Team (AOT) presented significant substance use problems, and only 9% were accessing drugs treatment.

Aims: AOT and the Harm Reduction Service developed and evaluated a joint-outreach pilot aiming to engage clients with dual diagnosis in harm reduction interventions.

Methods: Joint visits between staff from both services took place over 12 weeks. Before and after measures of severity, qualitative interview notes and case summaries were analysed to assess effective engagement.

Results: 18% of contacts resulted in the structured delivery of harm reduction advice, suggesting a success ratio of 1 in 6 clients. Cannabis and amphetamines were the most commonly used drugs, though there were high rates of poly-substance use. Qualitative data suggested that drug use had a detrimental impact on physical and mental health. Poor insight into risks and low motivation to change were common barriers to engagement. A detailed report is available at: <http://dual-diagnosis.org.uk/doc/JointOutreach.Pilot.Report.pdf>

Conference: BME communities, substance use and mental health

A conference took place in July 2009, involving representatives from a range of services and general members of Bangladeshi and African Caribbean Communities in Leeds. Results and recommendations of a recent consultation report were discussed and delegates made individual pledges to take some actions to improve access to care for people from BME communities:

<http://dual-diagnosis.org.uk/doc/DD.BME.Consultation.pdf>