

Leeds Dual Diagnosis Project - Future Needs Evaluation 2014

Executive Summary

Introduction

In January 2014 the Leeds Dual Diagnosis (DD) Project manager developed a project plan for 2014 in collaboration with the senior mental health commissioner from Leeds North Clinical Commissioning Group. The DD Project manager was request to undertake an evaluation of future DD needs in Leeds from the perspective of all parties engaged in the DD Network. This involved –

1. Identifying the priorities of future commissioning via the DD Strategy Group
2. Systematically gathering information on the perceptions of key DD Project stakeholders, the experience of service user and exploring alternative models of care

Methodology

The DD Project manager facilitated three focus groups with key stakeholders between June 2014 and August 2014. Participants explored the keys issues indicated below –

1. What is currently working well and why? (i.e. who's DD needs are being met)
2. What is currently not working and why? (i.e. who's DD needs aren't being met)
3. What are the solutions to the key gaps/barriers identified + what role could the DD network play in the future?
4. How can the disconnection between service users, practitioners, services + commissioners be overcome?

In addition, the Leeds Dual Diagnosis Experts Reference Group held a conference in June 2014 for people with lived experience of dual diagnosis. At conference members of the DD Experts Reference Groups explored the key theme's identified in the focus group with attendees to find out the views and ideas of people who have or are currently using services.

Limitations

- Focus groups are able to generate qualitative data i.e. descriptive and subjective data, however they are notable to generate quantitative data i.e. numerical, objective data.
- The data and information gathered reflects the views of the people who participated in the focus group and cannot be generalised as is not necessarily representative of the broader population of people working in health and social care services in Leeds

Participation and Engagement

Focus group	No. of Participants
DD Network Practice Development Session	31
DD Working Group	16
Leeds Accommodation Gateway	7
DD Expert Reference Group Conference	40 (approx.)
	94

A total of 25 services representing 17 organisations participated

Evaluation Findings

What is working well?

- The DD Project + DD Network
- When agreed care pathways, joint/link working partnerships and protocols are in place
- People, who are willing to engage/address substance use, are already engaged with services, legally obliged to or are on prescriptions
- Single point of access to services
- When services are delivered in the same location
- When service user involvement and mutual aid are in place
- Services that have the ability to be flexible to work with a persons support needs + flexible with there own commissioned criteria
- When services engage at levels relating to persons need, can offer outreach/floating support or able to offer early intervention
- When good primary care is in place
- Services that have staff trained in DD and services/professional have a good knowledge of other services

What is not working well?

- Crisis + high risk situations
- Support for pre-contemplative substance users
- Inpatient services + risk management
- Consultant's knowledge of dual diagnosis
- People who are undiagnosed or have a specific diagnosis i.e. personality disorder
- People who are not currently engaging with services, or not accessing mainstream services e.g. homeless, sex workers, street services
- Accessibility of services
- Inconsistency in DD provision
- Recovery, peer + mutual support
- Support for families, carers + concerned others
- Access to services for women, people with learning disabilities + LGBT community
- Alcohol Related Brain Damage (ARDB)
- The disconnection between service users, practitioners, services + commissioners

Next Steps

The findings from the evaluation were presented to the Dual Diagnosis Strategy Group in November 2014. This enabled the current activities taking place to address the problems/challenges that have been highlighted to be identified and the actions where no current activity is taking place to be agreed.

Some of the key work streams that will be addressing the problems/challenges highlighted by the evaluation are identified below –

- Leeds Mental Health Framework 2014-17
- Leeds DD Project action plan 2015-16
- WY-FI project
- Leeds DD Capability Framework -2014
- Implementation of the new drug/alcohol service model for Leeds
- ZIP (DD Expert Reference Group)
- Joint working pilot projects facilitated by the DD Project

For a copy of the full evaluation report please visit - <http://www.dual-diagnosis.org.uk/>