

DUAL DIAGNOSIS NETWORK

CITY OF LEEDS

Newsletter

Issue 3 - July 2008



Information on the project and the general field of Dual Diagnosis can be found on our web-site:

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

Newsflash

Job Swaps:

Touchstone Community Support Team and St. Anne's Drugs Project will be piloting a 'job swap' initiative. One worker in each of the teams will swap work-place for 1 full day per week, supported by a mentor in the host service. The aims are to (1) gain insight into each others work and (2) as a practical way of enabling joint outreach work to support people engaged with both services who have co-existing drugs & mental health problems.

Evaluation of Dual Diagnosis Work in Leeds:

The Institute of Health Sciences - Leeds University will be conducting a study on how Dual Diagnosis is identified, how care plans and referrals are coordinated and how this is experienced by service users. The University is working closely with the DD Project and more detailed information will be available in August via web-site. This will be one of the themed discussion topics at a future Practice Development Session.

National Themed DD Review :

CSIP has recently published a review of national progress on DD Strategy based on data from 131 Local Implementation Teams. See DD web-site to download copies of report.

Assertive Outreach DD Survey

A Lead DD Practitioner at Assertive Outreach Team has led on a recent DD survey.

The findings are described below:

Total number of service users asked about – 168 (brackets = percentage of ALL AOT service users)

No of males – 102 (60%) No of females – 66 (40%)

No of “significant substance use problem” – 87 (51%)

No of “significant effect of substance use on mental health” – 71 (42%)

No of “serious effect on mental health” – 42 (25%)

Cannabis significant use – 42 (25%)

Alcohol significant use - 37 (22%)

Amphetamine – 17 (20%) (12 out of 17 rated “serious effect on mental health”)

Cocaine (including crack) – 15 (9%)

Heroin – 13 (8%)

No of intravenous users – 7 (4%)

No with drug/alcohol agency involved – 15 (9%)

No whose case manager feels they are dependent in some way – 51 (30%)

Obviously, these figures can be broken down in other ways – e.g. over 80% of people with a significant substance use problem are seen as this significantly affecting their mental health, and nearly 50% of those are assessed to be seriously affected by it.

So overall – about 50% have significant problem, 40% have significant effect on mental health, 25% serious effect on mental health. 30% of our service users appear to be dependent in some way. Only a small number of intravenous users. Only 9 out of 87 with a significant problem have drug/alcohol agency involved.

Charlie Place, Assertive Outreach Team

BME Consultation

5 Partner Organisations are collaborating in a consultation with BME communities in Leeds, in order to identify awareness of combined mental health & substance use issues, perceptions on treatment and barriers to care, and also to engage community groups in disseminating information about existing services and sources of support. The consultation includes focus groups with BME community members and confidential interviews with service users. Outcome reports will be made available in October.

Training & Development

The DD Module delivered by Leeds Addiction Unit will be running again in September as a University Accredited course. This accreditation process has been pursued in order to ensure that the module can run on an on-going basis and can have a secure source of funding for practitioners wanting to develop knowledge and skills in this area.

The September course is fully booked, but applications for the Feb. 2009 course are currently being accepted. Practitioners who haven't yet done the DD training at LAU are encouraged to apply.

Queries: LAU 0113 295 1330