

Six month update on SUCESS Clinical Research Group March 08

Clinical research group meeting

The group now has representation from Rethink (Dr Vanessa Pinfold and Sarah Hamilton), FACTOR and also a forensic carer.

The SUCESS group has decided to change the venue for future meetings to Friends House in Euston. This is a central venues and easily accessible by public transport, particularly for members from other parts of the country.

Research bids

The research bid titled “An intervention study to measure and address carer dissatisfaction in forensic mental health settings and to evaluate the impact of the intervention on carers' psychological health and burnout” was submitted for the third round of calls for proposal for RfPB funding. The project intends to use a modified version of the CUES_Forensic tool developed by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, College Research and Training Unit (CRTU). The principal investigators for the project are working closely with Dr Paul Lelliott from the CRTU, Sarah Hamilton from Rethink and a carer representative. The bid was shortlisted but not successful in the final round of peer review.

An expression of interest was submitted for the fourth round of calls for proposal for RfPB funding. A full application for the project titled “ULeSISS: A pilot trial to assess the effect of a structured communication approach on therapeutic relationships, quality of life and levels of disturbance through increasing User Levels of Satisfaction In Secure Settings” will be submitted in May 2008. Professor Stephan Priebe from City and East London is supporting the project on the study design and methodology. The DIALOG tool developed by Professor Priebe will be adopted for the project. Clients for this project will be recruited from Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, Trevor Gibbons Unit in Maidstone and West London Mental Health Trust. The project will be submitted for adoption by the South East and South London Mental Health Research Network.

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust was successful in its bid to the London Strategic Health Authority to carry out a qualitative case study to explore drug and alcohol use in the in the Bracton Centre, a medium secure unit in Oxleas. Oxleas was awarded £10,000 for the project. Dr Doug MacInnes will be the lead for the project. One of the aims of the project is to recruit and train users from the Bracton Centre to interview clients on the ward.

There are plans to carry out a forensic carers' survey in Kent and Medway NHS Trust and Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust. The project is jointly funded by Kent and Medway NHS Trust and Oxleas' Opportunities Funds.

Dissemination

A poster on SUCCESS, its aims, objectives, membership, areas expertise and projects developed to date was presented at the third annual MHRN Scientific Conference held in London on the 17th and 18th March 2008.

Dr Dominic Beer

Dr Doug MacInnes