

Mainstreaming Mental Health in Glasgow City Council Services

Chris O'Sullivan, Senior Project Manager

chris@sdcmh.org.uk



Context

- Council has obligations under Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act (2003), under 'With Inclusion in Mind'
- Council keen to work towards its legislative obligations to those subject to Act
- Council keen to work towards reducing health inequalities and improving mental health
- Mental health critical to addressing social determinants of health



Multi-Level Approach

Individual Client/Public Participant City/Society Community Neighbourhood Glasgow Scotland Department





Research Phase

- Research phase undertaken
 - Interviews with senior service staff
 - Service user focus groups with Mental Health Network
- Model for training developed





Common Themes: Interviews

- Information on mental illness wanted
- Promoting the recovery of people experiencing mental illness
- Appreciating the mental health impact of policy; plans; services; individual and team actions
- How to make existing services more mental health promoting



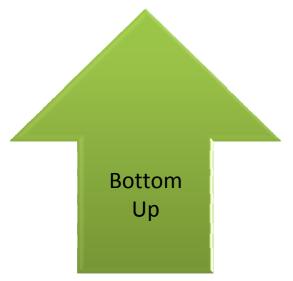
Priorities identified by service users

- Leisure services
- Libraries
- Community centres
- Parks and green space
- Council services as safe spaces/experiences
- Positive, clean, welcoming environments
- Cost should not be a barrier
- Information
- Out of hours service access



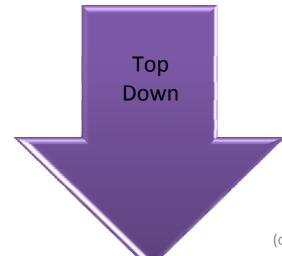


Training Approach



The Way Our Communities Work (and the ways we'd like them to)

- Risk and Protective Factors for Mental Health
- Opportunities to increase mental health and support people
- Risk to mental health and to people's recovery journeys



The Policy/Practice Drivers

- Lots of targets to meet and tasks to do
- A great deal of potential to positively influence mental health
- Even when this is not the primary objective



(c) Scottish Development Centre For Mental Health, please use with acknowledgement



Objectives

To understand determinants of mental health and mental ill-health

- The mental health continua
- Inequality
- Recovery
- Stigma and Social Exclusion
- Local services and training courses

To connect services and activities in the department to mental health and recovery objectives

- Connecting 'non mental health' work to mental health outcomes
- Realising that most policy and practice impacts on mental health
- Initiating change

To collect good practice, and identify actions on a departmental and council level

- To develop SMART objectives that can contribute to strategic planning at council level
- Supporting ongoing efforts





Phase I Training and Planning

- Each session was tailored to needs of a department, based on a core offer.
- Four departments worked with in Phase I:
- Development and Regeneration Services
- Land and Environmental Service
- Glasgow Community Safety Services
- Glasgow Life





Learning Points (Phase I)

for mental health

Mental Health Awareness

- Expectations of mental illness awareness
- Trojan Horse
- Appreciation of MH role, but some indications for mental illness training (e.g. SMHFA)

Gatekeepers and Pioneers

- Gatekeepers staff who could assist people with mental health problems/poor MH to access services.
- Pioneers staff who come into contact with people who might not otherwise contact health or council services for help.

Enforcements Roles

 Ensuring decisions made and communicated to minimise MH consequences on those affected, and solve problems for communities.



The Third Space

 Coined by Glasgow Life, describing council services as the 'third space', i.e. not school/work or home, important for decompressing and relaxing

Mobility, Access, Affordability

 Financial exclusion raised as an issue, both in terms of affording services, and the transport to access them.

Mentally Healthy Workplace

 Though not specifically in the training, most sessions included HR staff, and discussed mental health at work in that department



Conclusions

- Links between and within departments may maximise outcomes in MH work, as well as linking other fields.
- Training was well received, and a second phase now underway with Cordia, Financial Services, Education and Social Work
- Plans will be coordinated and a council wide action plan developed

