

Plenary abstract

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Title

Addressing the marginalisation of people with complex mental health needs.

Abstract

A major driver in the in the process of moving mental health care provision away from institutions to community based settings was a shift in societal attitude towards people with mental illness, away from exclusion and marginalisation towards greater inclusion and participation. Contemporary mental health policy focuses on promotion, prevention and early intervention, with little mention of the ongoing needs of those with longer term and more complex problems. There is good evidence that with appropriate treatment and support, most individuals in this group can achieve, sustain and enjoy a rewarding life in the community. However, many 'deinstitutionalised' countries are failing to provide the necessary rehabilitation services to support their longer term recovery, placing them at risk of neglect, exploitation and institutionalisation. This presentation will outline the evidence for a whole system approach to rehabilitation for those with more complex mental health needs and make the case for policy makers to give this group greater priority. It will include an overview of the recently published National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guideline on rehabilitation for people with complex psychosis and describe how the Quality Indicator for Rehabilitative Care (QuIRC) can be used to assess and drive up the quality of mental health rehabilitation services.