

Launch Event: Mental Health and Substance Use Protocol Programme

Contributions and reflections from
breakout room discussions.

March 2024

What are the challenges/opportunities you see with local protocol development and implementation?

- **Training and Awareness:** Ensuring staff have the necessary training, awareness, and support needed to address complex needs.
- **Role Clarification:** Clarifying roles and responsibilities, particularly when multiple services are involved in supporting an individual, is essential for effective care coordination.
- **Cultural Shift:** Enabling a shift towards more effective and collaborative working practices between mental health and substance use services requires concerted effort and time.
- **Silo Working:** Working practices within different services can hinder collaboration and coordination, leading to disjointed care for individuals with complex needs.
- **Resource Constraints and Workforce Challenges:** Limited resources, including staffing issues such as recruitment, retention, and capacity constraints, present challenges to providing comprehensive care and support.



How can you be supported to test, learn and share?



- **Interactive Learning Opportunities:** Providing interactive workshops and learning sessions that encourage discussion, problem-solving, and the exchange of good practice among stakeholders.
- **Prototyping and Improvement:** Conducting tests of change and prototyping in specific areas to gather feedback, iterate approaches, and continuously improve protocols based on experience.
- **Existing Resources:** Leveraging existing workshops, forums, and benchmarking tools to facilitate learning, sharing of experiences, and identification of what works within local contexts.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engaging stakeholders, including service users and staff, to ensure that protocols are informed by diverse perspectives and address needs.

Mental Health and Substance Use: Protocol Programme

This work will seek to improve clinical practice, joint working and interfaces between services to improve outcomes for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions accessing services.

Find out more at :
<https://ihub.scot/improvement-programmes/mental-health-portfolio/mental-health-and-substance-use-programme/>

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