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Photo-elicitation study into staff experiences of a Rehabilitation and Recovery Service.

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Because every picture has a story to tell...

This research was based at a novel Rehabilitation and Recovery Service for individuals with severe and enduring mental health issues.

The new Service offers a stepped intensive, inpatient pathway towards rehabilitation within the community and was set up to bring community voluntary sectors and NHS inpatient together with a view to transform local mental health provision.

- **Photo-elicitation** was used to enrich data collection through one-to-one semi-structured interviews.
- **15 purposefully sampled staff** across the Service were recruited to explore their experiences to understand how different organisations have been integrated and with an **aim to contribute to Service development**.
- **Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)** was used to analyse photo-elicitation interviews.

THEMES



Photo-elicitation is a creative method in which participants are invited to take photographs relevant to the study and then asked to bring them to an interview for discussion.



CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Photography is well suited to working with R&R staff.
- ✓ Staff have engaged deeply with the interview process, describing the method as surprisingly evocative.
- ✓ Staff have provided extremely interesting information, enjoyed the process, and discussed photographs on a metaphorical level.

MAIN FINDINGS

Mental health recovery is understood by staff to be complex and difficult to define. The Service is perceived to be situated within a powerful system built on traditional paradigms and existing structures appear intact and difficult to change. However, staff are genuinely interested in finding new ways to approach recovery, as well as improve communication and professional relationships.

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