**Staff experience of a novel in-reach mental health rehabilitation and recovery service: A photo elicitation study**

**Authorship**

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**Abstract - Invention: new practices, new services**

Background:In 2014, to create less reliance on in-patient care, Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust redesigned services for people with severe and enduring mental health problems. NHS in-patient and community voluntary sectors were brought together to form a novel in-reach Rehabilitation and Recovery Service (R&R) involving full application of recovery-focused principles, collaborative training plans, and shared knowledge and clinical skills.

Aims:The aim of this research is to provide an in-depth understanding of the R&R Service from the perspective of both service users and staff. This presentation will focus on analysis of staff data.

Sampling Method: Fifteen purposefully sampled staff were recruited who work in different roles across the Service. Roles include community partners and all bands of NHS staff such as Care Coordination, Clinical Lead, Healthy Living Coordination, Mental Health Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Peer Support, Psychiatry, Psychology and Recovery.

Method: The project involves photo elicitation to enrich data collection through one-to-one semi-structured interviews with participants to explore their experiences of the Service. Photo elicitation is a method in which participants are invited to take photographs relevant to the study and bring them to the interview for discussion.

Specific Analytical Approach: Interviews were analysed using the thematic, qualitative method of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis.

Main findings: The main themes from the analysis of the staff data include: (a) the role of relationships in recovery; (b) different approaches to the concept of ‘recovery’; and (c) the importance of meaning-making in participants’ lives.

Discussion: The discussion will consider how the themes generated provide insight into key issues for staff and provide evidence-based feedback supporting the annual plan for service development. The specific contribution of photographs in capturing these themes will be explicated through worked examples.

Conclusion: Photographs have facilitated staff to convey their lived experience of the Service in a creative format beyond words which involves both literal and metaphorical visual meanings. Early data collection with service users demonstrates similar benefits in terms of engagement and generation of rich visual material supporting interviews.

**Recommended reading list**

Erdner, A., Andersson, L., Magnusson, A., & Lützén, K. (2009). Varying views of life among people with long‐term mental illness. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing, 16 (1)*, 54-60.

Sandhu, A., Ives, J., Birchwood, M., & Upthegrove, R. (2013). The subjective experience and phenomenology of depression following first episode psychosis: A qualitative study using photo-elicitation. *Journal of Affective Disorders, 149 (1),* 166-174.

Thompson, N. C., Hunter, E. E., Murray, L., Ninci, L., Rolfs, E. M., & Pallikkathayil, L. (2008). The experience of living with chronic mental illness: A photovoice study. *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care, 44 (1)*, 14-24.