SUMMARY OF INVOLVEMENT

Sheffield DClin Psy Training Programme
Public and Patient Involvement in Training and Education

Introduction

Definition:

Service Users: “... people who at some time in their lives, past or present, have accessed mental health / psychological / disability services”, (Division of Clinical Psychology 2008).

The term ‘Involvement’ is a broad, and sometimes ambiguous one. Public and patient involvement can refer to members of the public, patients, clients, lay people, survivor activists, professionals and trainees who are, or have been, users and/or carers in psychological health services. People may have preferred terms of reference and it is useful to establish these in relationships with service users and carers.

The Sheffield DClin Psy Training Programme is strongly committed to continuing to develop creative working partnerships and relationships with service users and carers. Working in partnership in order to develop effective and responsive psychological services allows a valuable opportunity to use knowledge and skills. A key process for the Training Programme is in developing and sustaining relationships with service users, carers and groups.

A systematic literature search (Townend et al, 2008) identified that there has been “minimal involvement” from service users in the training of psychological therapists. More recent literature (Clinical Psychology Forum, special issue on service user and carer involvement, May 2010) provides examples of good practice from within the clinical psychology training community. Government drivers and policies (DoH, 1999) and standards set by the British Psychological Society (BPS, 2008) and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC, 2009) mean that service user and carer involvement is set high on the agenda of health care reform.

In 2010, a service user researcher completed a large-scale service evaluation of all aspects of involvement and diversity on the Training Programme (clinical training placements, research, teaching). This has been used to shape and inform the future direction of involvement and diversity on the Programme.

During your 3 years of clinical training, and through teaching sessions such as the Core Clinical Skills and Working with Difference teaching, and together with your placement supervisors, you will be encouraged to develop an awareness of your own attitudes and experiences about being a patient and/or caring for others.
You can get involved via the ‘public and patient involvement – Training Advisory Group’ (PPI-TAG), a university sub-committee responsible for developing involvement and by visiting local voluntary and statutory services whilst on placement. Your placement supervisor will have knowledge of the services in their area. For further information about the TAG and involvement activities go to www.shef.ac.uk/clinicalpsychology and click the ‘Diversity & Involvement’ link on the left-hand side of the page. The 2011 service evaluation report carried out by the service user researcher can be found to the right of this web page and on MOLE.

**Current Focus of Involvement**

The focus of Involvement on the Sheffield DClin Psy Training Programme to date has been on:

- The involvement of service users and carers in providing teaching and training to Trainee Clinical Psychologists.

- Involvement in Core Clinical Skills teaching to first year trainees, where service users and Programme team staff provide formative feedback to trainees (for example, relationship building, interpersonal skills, starting a session) prior to commencing their first training placement.

- Service user involvement in selection for DClin Psy training and in interviewing trainees. Service users and Programme team staff have equal voting status in plenary sessions.

- Service user / patient-led research.

- The British Psychological Society Accreditation Report (2009) clarified that the Sheffield DClin Psy Training Programme will be “developing an induction plan for service users and carer representatives who choose to become involved with the Programme, in addition to its current practice linking individual service users up with members of the Programme team”. An induction pack is available in draft form.

- To liaise with and learn/share with local and national programmes and via the ‘Group of Trainers’ (GTiCP) forum. In 2010, the Sheffield DClin Psy Programme led a workshop at GTiCP on service user and carer involvement in clinical psychology training. More recently, a programme team staff member and a service user co-presented at a conference in Nottingham; ‘can we come in please? involving service users and carers in clinical psychology training’. We are currently liaising with the Leeds and Hull DClin Psy training programmes with a view to information and resource sharing and becoming involved in possible joint or shared projects.

Much of this work has been developed via the Programme Training Committee, the Executive Committee, other university sub-committees, and the ‘public and patient involvement - Training Advisory Group’ (PPI-TAG), which has had active service user representation for a number of years. We are always seeking to widen this involvement and are liaising with other local and national programmes and user/carer groups.
Accountability and Evaluation

All the work that the Clinical Psychology Unit and service users and carers do together around involvement is subject to governance and review. You will be invited to give feedback on teaching sessions, which will be used to shape the content and manner in which teaching is provided in the future. The service users and carers who provide teaching and training will also be invited to feed back on their experiences.

It has been essential to use a structured approach in this mapping process. Developments in Public and Patient Involvement on the Training Programme have previously been evaluated using a tool called ‘Principles for Practice’ in health care training and education, (Trent Workforce Confederation, 2005) and an annual report is submitted to commissioners and key stakeholders. The service-user led service evaluation report completed in 2011 has allowed us to identify gaps and barriers to involvement and where further work needs to be done.

The vision of ‘Principles for Practice’ has been to begin the process of the involvement of service users, carers and the wider public becoming embedded on the DClin Psy Programme. A copy of the ‘Principles for Practice’ document can be obtained from the PPI/Diversity file in the Resources Room.

An electronic version of the service user-led evaluation study which was completed this year (2010), and which identified the Programme team’s, supervisors’ and trainees’ understanding and awareness of PPI and diversity issues on the Programme, can be found at www.shef.ac.uk/clinicalpsychology.

Future Developments

Future plans and developments include:

- The continued development of service user participation in the Core Clinical Skills teaching (Year 1) and in teaching and training in general.

- To liaise with wider PPI networks both within and outside of Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS Foundation Trust, with a view to joint and shared working/projects.

- To consider projects specifically related to clinical training placements – for example, service user and carer feedback on placements.

We welcome the sharing of ideas between the Programme, trainees, patients and the public, and placement supervisors. Ideas can be raised with the Programme team on an individual basis and shared at the Training Advisory Group and other sub-committees.
References


Clinical Psychology Forum 2010 – Special Issue No. 2009, May 2010

DoH 1999, National service framework for mental health: modern standards and service models, Department of Health, London


Trent Strategic Health Authority (2005), Principles for Practice: involving service users and carers in health care education and training.