3.3: Service provision - contemporary research findings (Core)

Approximate completion time: 90 minutes

This subtopic finishes the exploration of knowledge framework considerations with more codified material in the sense of drawing on research. It also explores how the experiences of (uncodified frameworks) individuals and social workers are highly agency, organisational and service provision bound. It enables you to reflect on contemporary research findings exploring service user provision. It has a number of broader generic considerations before concluding with a focus on, and using the example of, armed forces personnel and their families.

Research on Service Provision

Research in Mental Health provision is extensive. Indeed it is assumed that the policy cycle creating new legislation and guidance that informs your practice is itself informed by such research. Furthermore, government strategy and policy is often a really good place to start looking for service evaluation research.
Syntheses of research materials are called ‘systematic reviews’. These are worth accessing as they are where the research has already done the hard work of trawling for all relevant literature and they provide you with a summary. These will usually have a specific focus, such as a type of treatment or a particular service user group.
Take a brief look at this summary of one such example – of the experiences of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Populations.


Systematic reviews require a lot of search expertise. However, and fortunately for us, a brilliant organisational website (The Mental Elf) provides you, the busy practitioner, with highly skilled summaries and access to many of these systematic reviews and similar sorts of research materials.

Task

Spend plenty of time (at least 20 minutes) exploring the Mental Elf website. It is invaluable and academically robust and is therefore a solid evidence base for practice.

> The Mental Elf

A similar resource to the Mental Elf is available for those interested in alcohol and drugs

> Findings

In Wales much research activity is co-ordinated by Mental Health Research Network Cymru (within the NIHR framework). Those not familiar with this can take a quick look at the link below:

> Mental Health Research Network Cymru
As an example, if you visit the ‘Research Groups’ page you will see a list of 12 groups. Each of these groups has an enquiries contact in Wales and some offer publications you could read.

A really good overview of service provision in Wales can be found at Mental Health Wales.

> Mental Health Wales

**Military Personnel – an example**

Please read the following report:


Further reading is available at


Some key organisations exist to support armed forces personnel and their families in dealing with issues of Mental Health; take some time to familiarise yourself with these websites. They will be useful when you next have to support someone in this context.

> Combat Stress

> SSAFA

> PTSD Resolution

Much of the experience in relation to current and ex forces personnel is in dealing with the traumatic experiences of conflict and war zones. They are often identified as experiencing, and have been diagnosed with, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). For those not
familiar with PTSD, the Combat Stress website offers some initial guidance into what is PTSD. Of course PTSD is an issue for all – including children and adults. In Learning Central (Further Reading) you will find the NICE guidance for the management of PTSD – if you wish to refer to it.

Developing your role

Task

Please choose either A or B depending on your role.

A. Those not in a specialist role

Using this template please compile your own brief research findings about what services are available to you locally – you should be able to identify at least those on the following list. Then share your list with your colleagues (you could ask them for suggestions about it). This will help to generate team resources in a single page document tailored to your service user group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Service</th>
<th>Provider – and brief description of whom they serve, what they do and any eligibility criteria</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Patient Psychiatric Care – Adults</td>
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<td>In-Patient Psychiatric Care</td>
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<td>Young People/Children</td>
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<td>Statutory – Mental Health Team</td>
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<td>Mental Health advisory services for young people and children</td>
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<td>Day Centre – drop in service (Usually voluntary sector)</td>
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<td>Advocacy Services</td>
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<td>Support Group – Eating disorders</td>
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<td>Support group – Sexuality, Gender identity</td>
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<td>Support group – Self Harm</td>
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</table>
B. Those in a specialist role

Either

If your team does not currently do regular work with significant numbers of veterans, make an appointment with your local organisational contact supporting work with armed personnel and their families. Through this meeting try and establish:

> further understanding of prevalence and needs within your community;
> the nature of intervention and support available;
> consideration of where next steps joint working might go.

Find a way to feed this back to your team.

Or

Consider the latest NICE guidelines on psychosis and schizophrenia in adults. Read all three sections: ‘Guidance’, ‘Tools and Resources’ and ‘Information for the Public’.

> Psychosis and schizophrenia in adults; treatment and management - [CG178] Published date: February 2014.

This is English Clinical Guidance that frequently affects Welsh Consultants’ practice. Consider how this information provides

> a further development of your understanding of prevalence and needs within your community;
the nature of intervention and support available locally.

Find a way to feed this back to your team.

Task

Watch two more of the Hafal films.

Ian (running time 4.28)
Eurig (running time 8.24)
Reflect with a colleague / supervisor on your agency's roles and responsibilities concerning Mental Health – are they clear? Where are the grey areas?
Note: Some of the documents on this page are in PDF format. In order to view a PDF you will need Adobe Reader.

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