

CAPITAL CITY PARTNERSHIP



MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS SUMMARY (2008)

Compiled by Stephen McMurray

Introduction

This summary updates information presented in ‘The Position of Joined up for Jobs Target Groups’ report in 2005. This report considered each target group and in addition to the categories below included; overlaps between the different target groups, perceived gaps in service provision, information gaps, and conclusions and recommendations. This report is available from CCP.

Scope

There is an estimation that the prevalence rate of people with mental health problems is around 14%. At a Scottish level that would equate to **436,408** working age people, at an Edinburgh level **41,426** working age people. However, the DWP reported that there were **10,279** people in Edinburgh claiming IB/SDA in May 2007 whose principle disability was a mental health problem. If that figure is added to the Labour Force Survey 2001 estimation that only **18.4%** of people with mental health problems were in work, this would equate to around **18,000** working age people. In the context of Edinburgh, it seems reasonable to estimate that there are between **12,000** and **18,000** people of working age with mental health problems classified as disabled.

<u>TARGET GROUP</u>	<u>NUMBER IN EDINBURGH</u>	<u>NOT WORKING</u>	<u>SOURCES</u>
Mental Health Problems	Likely to be between 40,000 and 50,000 working age (prevalence rate of around 14%) Between 12,000 and 18,000 of working age likely to be classified as disabled	10,279 on IB/SDA	Labour Force Survey 2001, DWP 2008, Social Exclusion Unit 2004

Definition

The Scottish Association for Mental Health (2004) refers to mental health problems as a variety of illnesses that affect the functioning of the mind and can refer to conditions as diverse as depression, anxiety, phobias, eating disorders and schizophrenia.

Employment

The Labour Force Survey in 2001 reports that only **18.4%** of people with mental health problems were in paid work. This is considerably lower than any category of people with other disabilities. If we estimate that there are around **15,000** people in Edinburgh of a working age whose mental health problem is classified as a disability, then there would be around **2,760** people in employment.

Benefits

One problem in the IB/SDA figures is that mental health problems are included in the same categories as people with learning disabilities – Mental and Behavioural Disorders. Therefore it is likely there will be a lot of overlaps in the categories between mental health problems and learning disabilities.

IB/SDA CLAIMANTS IN THE CITY OF EDINBURGH (MAY 2007)

Mental and Behavioural Disorders due to Psychoactive Substance use	2,632
Mood affective disorders	4,431
Neurotic, Stress Related and Somatoform disorders	2,119
Schizophrenia, Scizotypal and Delusional disorders	742
Unspecified Mental Disorder	276
Organic, including Symtomatic, Mental Disorders	7
Behavioural Syndromes associated with Physiological disturbances and Physical factors	36
Disorders of Adult Personality and Behaviour	36

Source: DWP

Barriers to Employment

In terms of barriers to employment, below are issues identified beyond the general barriers people with disabilities encounter:

- Employer attitudes, awareness and recruitment around people with mental health problems.
- Lack of flexibility in the benefit rules and fear that DLA will stop when work is started.
- Many people with mental health problems are in debt, which can act as a disincentive to enter work.
- Fluctuating mental health and in many instances secondary physical health problems.
- Poor service provision around mental health problems and employability.

Employability Services

Along with the general support organisations, 4 other organisations provide services for people with a learning disability:

- **Forth Sector** – Provides Restart and Moving-On programmes and operates social firms.
- **Lothian Primary Care Trust** – Work Training Project, Occupational Therapy Rehabilitation Unit, Occupational Therapy Horticulture Project as well as other mental health services.
- **National Schizophrenia Fellowship** – Provides information, advice and support.
- **The Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH)** – Runs Redhall Walled Gardens as well as a supported employment scheme.

Further Reading

Robbie and Pressland (2003) Mind the Gap. Experiences of Unemployed People with Mental Health Problems moving into Work, Edinburgh, Forth Sector

SDCMH (2008) Baseline Assessment of Mental Health and Employment Services in Edinburgh, Edinburgh

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