

Supporting the improvement of mental health services in Devon and Cornwall



"It is exciting to see the mental health trusts in the South West embedding advanced analytics and modelling in their organisations to support evidence based decision making"

Dr Sean Manzi, PenCHORD

PenCHORD, PenCLAHRC's operational research team, are working across the South West Peninsula to develop and embed open source advanced analytics and simulation modelling solutions to support the strategic and operational planning of mental health service provision. This has been achieved through collaborative working, research, mentoring and training.

Geographic modelling with Devon Partnership Trust

Providing training to people within mental health organisations is enabling them to undertake modelling and simulation projects as part of their normal working practices. In a project undertaken with Devon Partnership Trust (DPT) analysts within the trust developed a geographic model of all community mental health team activity across Devon with support from the PenCHORD team. This model has been used to inform the strategic redesign of the community based mental health teams and the geographic areas in which they operate.

Acute psychiatric care capacity in Devon

Simulation modelling approaches are becoming embedded within DPT through the Health Service Modelling Associates (HSMA) programme. Models have been developed to understand the acute psychiatric inpatient and intensive care capacities required across Devon. These models will inform the capacity requirements of the new psychiatric intensive care ward being constructed at Wonford House in Exeter, and the planning process for a new inpatient ward in Torbay. In addition, location mapping has also been undertaken to identify locations for new community crisis café services.

Avoiding out-of-area placements in Cornwall

PenCHORD conducted operational research on acute psychiatric inpatient services in Cornwall to understand how sufficient capacity could be created in order to avoid sending patients out of the county for treatment. Supported by this project, Cornwall Partnership Trust (CPT) achieved an 85% bed utilisation rate ensuring there is sufficient capacity within Cornwall for patients to remain within the county while receiving care.

Other projects

Other projects have included work to understand trends in service and resource use of people with a personality disorder in Devon to inform the development of a new care pathway and services, and research to predict the impact on waiting times of a new triage system for memory clinics in Devon.



For further information visit:

www.clahrc-peninsula.nihr.ac.uk

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