

Cooperation And Working Together (CAWT)

WHSSB Self Harm Registry Newsletter 2

In This Issue

- ◆ The Background
- ◆ The Story So Far
- ◆ Preliminary Findings
- ◆ Project News
 - Steering Group
 - Evaluation
 - Quality Assurance
 - What's Next
 - Congratulations

Self Harm Registry Project – The Background

Welcome to the second issue of the Self-Harm Registry Newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to update on the progress of the project, the issues surrounding the project and to raise awareness of self harm in the hospitals across the WHSSB area.

The pilot project will involve establishing a registry of self-harm in the Western Health and Social Services Board of Northern Ireland. The project will link with the work of the Irish National Registry of Deliberate Self Harm, which has been in operation in the Republic of Ireland since 2000.

For this pilot project, pertinent information will be collated on the incidence of hospital attendance due to self-harm behaviour at the A&E

Departments in Altnagelvin, Tyrone County and Erne Hospitals. Analysing this information will inform the development of policies and shape the implementation of measures aimed at preventing suicide and self harm and the after care that is provided for self harm patients.

The increasing rates of deliberate self-harm reflect the high level of psychological/psychiatric morbidity in the population. This highlights the need for a systematic approach to understanding self-harm behaviour and implementing actions to prevent self-harm and support vulnerable people.

The project will run until March 2009 and during this time this newsletter will be used to provide an update on the progress of the project.

Self Harm Registry – The Story So Far..

Issue number one of this newsletter introduced members of the Project Team and the Steering Group who meet regularly to oversee the management of project. The Data Registration Officer, Amana O'Carroll, has collected one full year of data from each of the three hospitals.

The Data Entry System used by the National Suicide Research Foundation, Cork (NSRF) has been modified to suit the needs of the project and also the requirements of the UK Data Protection Act.

Audits were also carried out in the three hospitals to ensure the method of data collection was accurate.

The non-identifiable data was then entered onto the Data Entry System and records were linked manually to highlight repeat presentations.

Working closely with the NSRF, the Data Registration Officer is currently analysing the data, developing comparison reports and working on an annual report for 2007 which should be published in September 2008.

Project News



The Steering Group met on 8th April 2008. Professor Keith Hawton, Mr Eugene Fee, Mr Seamus McGarvey and Ms Josephine Devlin were all introduced as new members of the Steering Group.

Pictured:
Seated (L-R)
Prof. Keith Hawton, Josephine Devlin.
Standing (L-R)
Eugene Fee, Edel O'Doherty, Paul Corcoran,
Amanda O'Carroll, Martin Bell

Other members of the Steering Group missing from photo include: Mr Peter Moran, Dr Denise O'Hagan, Dr Sophie Graber, Mr Barry McGale, Mr Bernard McAnaney and Ms Dorothy Hutchinson

Project Evaluation

The evaluation will be led and in the majority delivered by Mr. Eugene Fee, who, as part of an extensive career in health care, has extensive clinical and managerial experience in dealing with people who have engaged in episodes of deliberate self harm.

He will be joined in this research/evaluation by Mr. Seamus McGarvey who has been responsible for the delivery of mental health services at a managerial level and delivering clinical assessments in the Out of Hours service until April 2008.

Mr. Eugene Fee RMN, RGN, BA, DMS, MBA, has more than 35 years Health and Social Services experience across a range of setting including 10 years as an Executive Director in a HPSS Trust. Throughout this period experience was gained in working with all clinical disciplines, both in a managerial context and working on a range of major projects including the Review of Cancer Services, the Review of Acute Hospital Services, the Review of Trauma Services and the development of Managed Clinical Networks of Services across a range of specialities.

At a Regional level relevant projects included being involved in the restructuring of Palliative Care Services, developing the Nursing Strategy for N. Ireland, "Valuing Diversity" and the development of the N. Ireland Practise and Education Council.

In addition to the Health and Social Services experience gained, he is a Non Executive Director with Action Mental Health and an Independent Panel Member with the European Union Special Programmes Body and has over 20 years experience in private business. He also continues to deliver clinical services including the assessment of suicidal risk in patients presenting to the Out of Hours service.

Project News

Quality Assurance



Professor Keith Hawton has joined the Steering Group and will be providing Quality Assurance to the project. Professor Hawton is a Consultant Psychiatrist with Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and Professor of Psychiatry at Oxford University, he has been working in the field of research into suicide and deliberate self-harm for more than 30 years. His work has resulted in over 250 publications. He has written and edited several books, including The International Handbook of Suicide and Attempted Suicide, Prevention and Treatment of Suicidal Behaviour: From Science to Practice, and By Their Own Young Hand: Deliberate Self-Harm and Suicidal Ideas in Adolescents.

What's Next

The next steps for the project.....

- Data analysis will continue over the next couple of months.
- Data collection for 2008 will begin mid summer.
- The third newsletter will be developed for December 2008.

Congratulations!!

The Steering Group would like to congratulate:

- Dr Denise O'Hagan on the birth of her baby boy!
- Dr Paul Corcoran on securing a one year sabbatical where he will be travelling to Spain to work on various papers. As well as his new venture, Paul will still be providing support and advice to the project.

The Project Team wish both all the very best.

For further information about the Self Harm Project contact: -
Amanda O'Carroll, Data Registration Officer, CAWT
T: 028 7127 2100
E: amanda.ocarroll@westhealth.n-i.nhs.uk

