


Volume 15, 27 May 2015

Publisher: Uopen Journals

URL: <http://www.ijic.org>

Cite this as: Int J Integr Care 2015; Annual Conf Suppl; [URN:NBN:NL:UI:10-1-116957](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:nl:ui:10-1-116957)

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Conference Abstract

Mandated joint working in mental health services in England: evaluation of its complexities

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Abstract

Joint working has been mandated, or made compulsory, in a number of contexts in mental health services in England, some over many years. This presentation examines three such contexts: delayed transfers of care, (Section 117) aftercare and the use of police powers (section 136). Each context each has specific, and apparently simple, intended outcomes – for the first two, a timely and effective move from in-patient care to the most appropriate setting and for the third, a timely needs assessment - but have been the source of continual inter-organisational tension and governmental concern. The paper will draw from the first stage of an evaluation of the joint working arrangements which seek to address these contexts; this first stage is an analysis of the circumstances in which such arrangements are placed based on documentary analysis and interviews with key players in two case study sites.

The paper suggests that the complexities inherent in joint working derive not only from the needs of individual people who need services, local organisational arrangements or resource availability but also the theories which underpin these specific contexts and the variety of joint working models needed to address them.

Keywords

mandated joint working; evaluation; theories

PowerPoint presentation

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