

Turning evidence into outcomes in Sussex:

an accelerated county-wide IPS implementation programme

When looking at employment and people with mental health problems in the UK, we know that:

- Only 20% of people in contact with specialist mental health services have paid work or are in full-time education.
- 70-90% people would like help to get into work.

Implementing IPS in the UK

International trials show that IPS, an evidence-based supported employment approach, can achieve 50-60% employment rates. It offers intensive and individually tailored support to people with ongoing mental health conditions who want to work.

Implementation of the IPS approach in the UK is patchy and few places have achieved high fidelity to the model. Practitioners in the USA have been implementing IPS programmes since 2001. State Trainers there are proven to increase paid work outcomes for clients with severe and enduring mental illness. The success of these posts in the US has led to the creation of a similar post in Sussex.

The Sussex IPS Training and Development Manager

The Sussex post is the first of its kind in the UK and will provide an opportunity to test an approach to accelerating the implementation of IPS across Sussex. Over the next 12 months, the Manager will provide initial and ongoing training to Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and training

and ongoing mentoring to Southdown Supported Employment managers and employment specialists. They will also carry out Fidelity Reviews and help to develop local action plans.

The post aims to build sustainable, high performing (high fidelity) supported employment services across Sussex and increase the numbers of people found competitive jobs from 125 to 200.

Data will be collected throughout and evaluated to demonstrate whether this specific part of IPS delivery is translatable outside the US context.

This post is funded by the South Central and South East Coast Strategic Health Authorities under the Targeted PSA16 Innovation Fund. It is being run in partnership by Centre for Mental Health, Southdown Supported Employment and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

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