



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Occupational Health Physiotherapy Pilot

Julie Robinson

Health Improvement Division

**Department for Public Health & Health
Professions**



Mapping Exercise

- 2005/6
- Provided base line information
- Current OH service provision across public and private sector
- Identified recognised training courses for OH personnel



Mapping Exercise

Findings

- Public sector 81% response rate
- All provided OH services – mainly in-house
- Doctor (89%)
- Nurse (84%)
- Physiotherapist (45%)



Mapping Exercise

Findings

- Private sector – Large, med, small & micro
- 18% response rate (907/4978)
- 17% of respondents provided OH service
- OH services more likely to be bought in from non-NHS providers (48%)
- 22% NHS providers



Mapping Exercise

Recommendations

- Explore opportunities to meet shortfalls
- *“Could physiotherapists be used to cover more of the musculo-skeletal workload?”*
- Investigate out of hours OH provision



OH Physiotherapy Pilot Project

- Secondment from June 2007
- Money generated from DEIN & Health
- Physiotherapy service to address MSD in OH
- Across Wales
- Across public & private sectors
- Unemployed graduates



Steering Group

- WAG
- CSP
- FSB
- ANHOPs
- AWPM
- NPHS Wales
- All Wales OH Nurses Forum
- HSE
- RCN OH Forum



Model of Service

- Telephone Advice/Triage
- Face to Face Assessment & Treatment
- Workplace Assessment



Model of Service

Telephone Advice

- 4 NHS Trusts - 1 England, 1 Scotland, 2 Wales
- 15-51% referrals dealt with by advice alone
- up to 50% decrease in DNA rate
- up to 10% inappropriate



Model of Service

Police Service of Northern Ireland

- 7yrs
- 14,000 officers & staff
- 1,200 patients
- Use 26 practices across public & private sectors
- Cost benefit of 1:7
- Limitations to access
- Rolling out to civil service



Model of Service

NHS Lothian

- NHS OH Physiotherapy service
- 13,500 personnel
- 3.30 WTE clinicians
- Telephone advice & triage
- Face to face assessment & treatment
- Workplace assessment
- Collaborative working with OH Staff



Service Providers

- Inclusion criteria
- Existing systems
- Cost
- Established links with private sector
- Established links with OH
- Staffing levels and training



Population

- Public sector
- Not just for NHS Staff
- Private sector
- SMEs, large businesses,
- Engage via connections with FSB, HSE, etc.



Evaluation

- Currently out to tender
- Economic benefit
- Sickness absence due to MSD
- Clinical standards - outcome measures
- Quality of service - satisfaction questionnaires



Time Scale

- 28th September - Written submission
- 12th October - Scoring of submissions
- End of October selection process completed
- January - Services taking referrals
- March 2009 - Project completed



Contacts

Julie Robinson

Project Lead

Julie.robinson@wales.gsi.gov.uk

029 2080 1412

Matt Downton

Workplace Health Advisor

Matt.downton@wales.gsi.gov.uk

029 2082 6324

