Dual Diagnosis Care

Developing Integrated Care Pathways for Service
Users Experiencing a Co-Existing Mental Health &
Substance Use Problems

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Aims

- Discuss dual diagnosis & integrated care for service users in Ireland.
- Evaluate the impact of integrated care for vulnerable service users.
- Highlight the importance of change in the provision of an integrated care model for dual diagnosis.
- Assess barriers to change & discuss the importance of fostering a culture of open-mindedness.

What is a dual diagnosis? What is integrated care?





Integrated care pathway for homelessness and dual diagnosis

Since 2015 the number of people staying in emergency accommodation has more than doubled (Allen *et al* 2020).

This number has reached 7917 adults and 3480 children since October 2022.

Research states that up to 50% of homeless adults have dual diagnosis.

Why is this relevant to mental health?

- There is a high prevalence of mental health issues and substance misuse among the homelessness population.
- There are barriers that prevent homeless people with a dual diagnosis from accessing general mental health care (Wiss 2023).
- ► The current care system delineates between general and addiction psychiatric services.
- Lacking integration puts additional stress on one service.

Integrated care pathway for a person with a dual diagnosis



Service Delivery- 5 Tier Community Care System

Positive Service Provision

- Level 1: GP, the regional drug and alcohol services in the HSE.
- ► Level 2: Attendance of ASE department with assistance of Liaison Psychiatry department.
- Level 3: Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs).

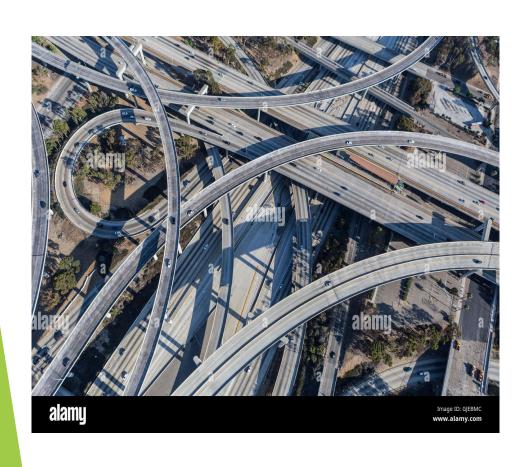
Service Pitfalls

- Level 4: Specialist dual diagnosis teams.
- Level 5: specialised DD rehabilitation inpatient beds.

What does this mean for service users?

- Those who need specialist DD services end up either with level three CMHTs or Addiction services or both.
- Service users often end up falling between the different levels, leading to inadequate service provision.
- Service users lack access to specialised DD rehabilitation inpatient beds, in addition to inpatient detoxification and stabilisation beds.

Motorway Mental Health Care







Barriers to Change- A Student Perspective Fostering a Culture of Open-Mindedness to Change

