

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 A&E 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

