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A reflexive mapping, and website, to help understand homeless service provision

Dickson, K.,¹* Rodriguez, A.,² Turner, K.,³ Freeman, R.,² Gupta, E.⁴ ¹NHS Lothian, UK; ²University of Dundee, UK; ³Simon Community Scotland, UK; ⁴University of Aberdeen, UK

Background:

Smile4life, the Scottish Oral Health and Psycho-social well-being programme, developed a mapping project across Scotland. The map is an initiative from University of Dundee and third sector partners aiming to understand the current service provision available to vulnerable individuals, and how it relates to areas of deprivation and need. Alongside this, the Simon Community Scotland have developed Street Support, an online interactive map of services in Glasgow and Edinburgh. By working together to formulate a comprehensive list of services, Smile4life and Street Support hope to provide healthcare professionals, and service users, with access to services that could ultimately allow for holistic patient care.

Objectives:

The first objective is to map the current service provision and how it relates to need and deprivation. Secondary to this, we would like to facilitate referral and service knowledge through an accessible online resource.

Methods:

The mapping exercise was carried out in the four main Scottish cities in conjunction with NHS Boards, Local Authorities, Universities and Shelter Scotland. Dundee was published in 2019, and Aberdeen in 2021, and both are acting as a framework for Glasgow and Edinburgh. Analysis was carried out to understand service provision in relation to location and service aims.

Results:

The mapping aims to provide a framework to help health and social care integrate, and educate, future service provision. Analysis revealed the need for more services to be aimed towards sustained recovery, rather than crisis relief, and to be located in more deprived areas.

Conclusion:

The current findings suggest that services need to be reorientated to prevention and located in areas of greatest need. Through conducting education and awareness of Smile4life and Street Support, in primary and secondary care, we aim to provide referral and treatment to those in need that encompasses the physical, psychological, and social aspects of health.

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Kirsty Dickson

Email: kirsty.dickson3@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

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