

Health and social care professionals' family focused practice with parents who have mental illness, their children and families in Northern Ireland

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Overview



- **Why examine health & social care professionals' FFP?**
- **Study aims, design & methodology**
- **Introduction to project team, advisory committee and principal investigator in each Health and Social Care Trust.**

Why examine FFP

- **A range of initiatives have been introduced in NI which aim to improve health and social care professionals' FFP, multidisciplinary working and the interface between services.**
- **The overall aim is to improve outcomes for families when parents have a mental illness.**

- **Despite introduction of multifaceted implementation strategies to promote FFP there has been limited examination of health and social care professionals' FFP.**
- **As organisational and policy development is often context specific and needs to be responsive to local needs and workforce and professional training frameworks, rigorous, systematic and comprehensive examination of health and social care professionals' FFP is now required.**

- **Acquiring a good understanding of both health and social care professionals and service users' perspectives is a crucial element in capacity building for better FFP.**
- **Benchmarking FFP in NI will allow comparison with elsewhere including Ireland, Australia and Norway. Grant (2014) found that 109 Irish nurses out of 346 were family focused and Irish nurses were significantly less family focused than Australian nurses.**

Study aims and outcomes

- **The purpose of this study is to benchmark health and social care professionals' FFP. It will examine extent and predictors of FFP, how, if at all, organisational developments to date have facilitated FFP and how FFP might be further promoted.**
- **The information generated will provide helpful evidence on the current state of Think Family service delivery initiatives and their impact and establish a platform to inform ongoing examination of family focused service initiatives in NI and elsewhere.**
- **On the basis of the results, various recommendations for education, practice, policy and research can be made.**

Study design

- **The proposed study will incorporate a systematic review of the literature, logic model and primary quantitative and qualitative research with health and social care professionals and parents who have mental illness in adult mental health and children's services on a regional basis.**

Methodology

- **Quantitative data will be collected between September and December 2016 from the population of health and social care professionals who fulfil inclusion criteria, using the Family Focused Mental Health Practice Questionnaire (Maybery et al., 2006, 2009 & 2012; further adapted by Grant 2014 & Grant et al. 2016).**
- **Semi structured interviews will be conducted between January and June 2017 with approximately 30 health and social care professionals and 30 parents who have mental illness.**

How much data?



Focus of questionnaire

- **3 sections:**
 - 1. Demographics – child & family focused education, service setting (adult or children, acute in-pt or community), own parenting experience, acting as a champion).**
 - 2. Family focused subscales – measure 6 family focused activities (support to parents, children and adult family members) and organisational, systemic, worker and family related factors that may impact FFP.**
 - 3. Captures perspectives of specific NI Think Family Initiatives:**
 - **Are you aware of Falkov’s Family Model,**
 - **Do you use the Model in your work,**
 - **If yes how do you use the Model (please specify by providing examples)**
 - **If you do not use Falkov’s Model can you tell us why?**

Focus of interviews

- **Explore nature and scope of FFP in more detail (what professionals do, principles they employ and processes they use).**
- **Factors that enable and/or hinder FFP**
- **How services for families can be further improved**

The team involved

- **Project team**
- **Advisory committee**
- **1 principal investigator in each Trust**
- **International advisors**