

Returning from Out of Area Placements: The Impact on Quality of Life for People with Learning Disabilities

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Introduction

- . All people with a learning disability should have the right to lead their life the way they wish, with equal opportunities and responsibilities and to be treated with the same dignity and respect (Department of Health, 2001; 2009).
- . The Medical Model of disability generally discouraged community integration for people with LD. People were congregated in institutions, away from their families, friends and home communities (Mirfen-Veitch, Bray and Ross, 2001), resulting in people feeling devalued and disadvantaged (Thorncroft, Rose and Kassam, 2007).
- . The Winterbourne View scandal highlighted the ongoing abuse and neglect of people with LD living in institutions and the widespread failure to provide the right support for people close to their home (Department of Health, 2012).
- . Evidence suggests that movement from institutions has a positive effect on quality of life for people with LD (Cocks and Boaden, 2011; Young and Ashman, 2004). However, movements to deinstitutionalise people and transition to community based living have not produced consistently improved quality of life outcomes for everyone (Mansell, 2006; Perry Felce, Allen and Meek, 2010; Beadle-Brown, Mansell and Kozma, 2007).

Aim of the Study

Aim

- . To explore out of area and Salford community living and the impact of these placement settings on quality of life for people with learning disabilities.

Research Question

- . Does quality of life differ between out of area and Salford community living?

Methodology

Design

- . The study adopted a repeated measures design using the methodological triangulation of qualitative and quantitative data.

Participants

Figure 1: Quantitative and Qualitative Cohort

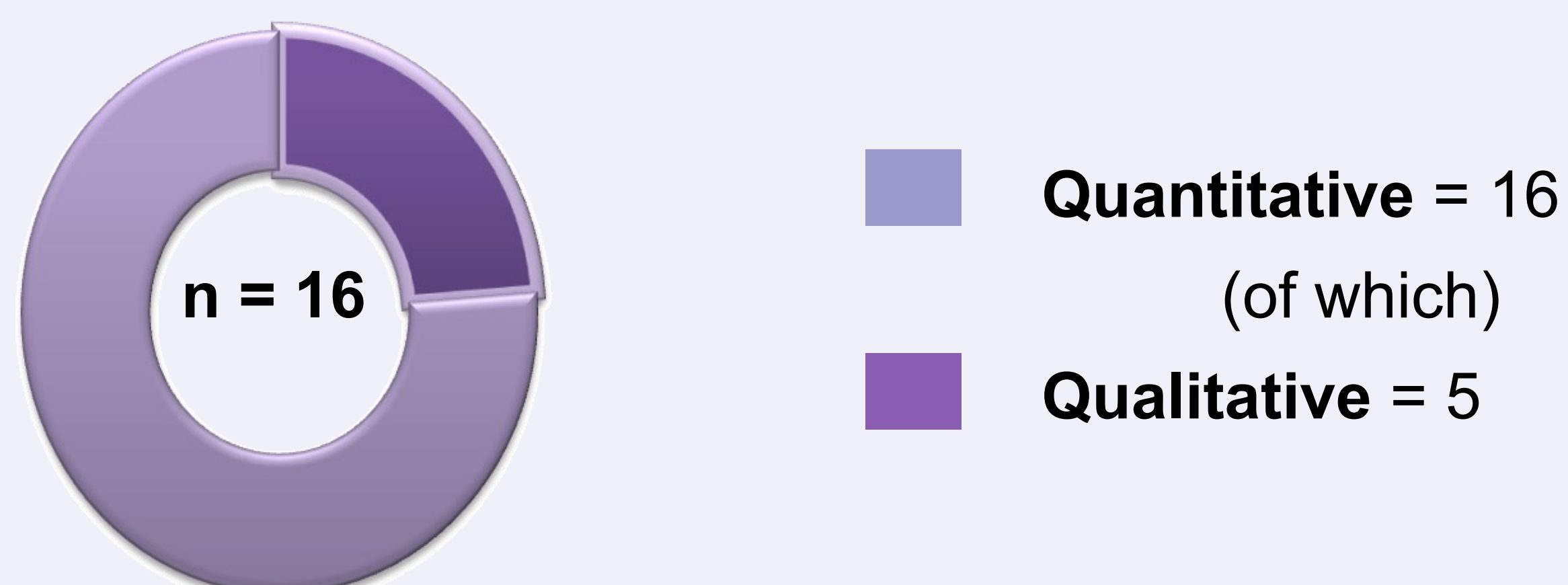


Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Quantitative Cohort

Quantitative	
Mean age (years)	43
Mean time back in Salford (months)	42

Table 1.2: Demographic Characteristics of the Qualitative Cohort

Qualitative	
Mean age (years)	37
Mean time back in Salford (months)	17

Method

Qualitative Methodology

- . Post-move semi-structured interviews were completed with five individuals with a learning disability following their resettlement in Salford, exploring subjective experiences of living out of area and in the Salford community.

Quantitative Methodology

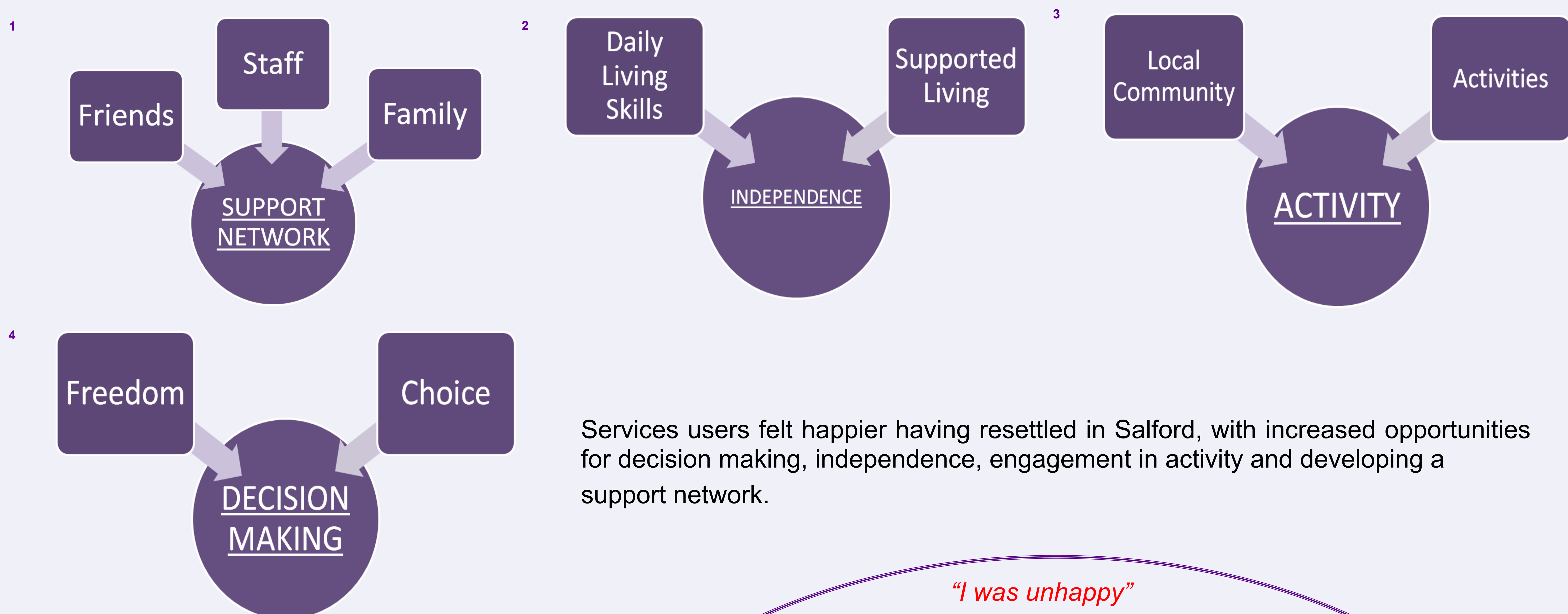
- . Four quality of life measures: **The Life Experiences Checklist** (Agar, 2003), **Adaptive Behaviour Scale, Residential and Community, Second Edition** (Nihira, Leland and Lambert, 1993), **Problem Behaviour Inventory and Reinforcement Inventory** (from The Behaviour Assessment Guide, Willis, LaVigna and Donnellan, 1985).
- . Data was obtained via care staff pre and post move.
- . 44% of the pre move data was obtained retrospectively.

Results

Emergence of Qualitative Themes via Thematic Analysis

Transcript codes were grouped into themes (several codes were eliminated at this stage). Four final themes emerged from the

Figure 2: The Emergence of Qualitative Themes



Services users felt happier having resettled in Salford, with increased opportunities for decision making, independence, engagement in activity and developing a support network.

Participant quotes

Living out of area...

"I was unhappy"

"It was all different then, it was like staying in a hospital and being looked after"

"It was their rules" *"A set menu I had to choose from"*

"He used to call me names and he used to go 'It looks like you'll be having PRN again'"

"She used to pull the cushion from behind me, so I wasn't allowed to fall asleep"

"Only one friend came to visit me"

"I didn't have any choices"

Back in Salford...

"I can do more things than usual because before I didn't have that choice"

"I'm more independent, I can do things for myself" *"I enjoy it here"*

"I make my own choices, I can wash myself, I do my own personal care, I choose what I want to wear, when I go out I just choose where I want to go and I make my own choices when I want something to eat or watch anything on tele, like soaps"

(When talking about a sister visiting) *"It was too far away. But this time its better for her"*

"I know the area around here, more to do, everyone is nice around here"

Quantitative Results

- The Wilcoxon signed-rank statistical test was utilised as the data did not represent an approximate normal distribution.
- Statistically non-significant results were found between the pre and post move quality of life data ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusion

- The subjective accounts of people with LD clearly indicate that quality of life improves upon return to Salford.
- The integrated service provided by Salford City Council and Salford NHS has been highlighted for providing the right quality services for people with LD (Mencap, 2014), with the qualitative results of this research reflecting such practice.
- Methodological weaknesses may have resulted in the non-significant difference found between placement setting and quality of life scores (Small sample size, retrospective data reliant upon accurate accounts of memory, varied data collection points post move, postal response rate resulting in missing data). Any future research should account for these factors.