



Evaluating a Pilot Trauma Training

Gates, B., Mafuba, K., Blackman, N. and Fitzgerald, A. (2015)



Counselling Ed



BACKGROUND

People with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) are extremely vulnerable to traumatic life experiences. Many experience extreme abuse in institutional care, some within their family environment, a high proportion are victims of disability hate crime. The UK based charity RESPOND designed and ran a 22 week course which was jointly funded by Hertfordshire County Council Adult Social Care and the Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme. The course was attended by a small group of senior ID professionals. The training was externally evaluated by the University of West London

AIM

To understand the impact of training senior ID professionals to understand, and work with trauma from a psychodynamic perspective with people with ID who present with challenging behaviour

EVALUATION METHOD

Data was gathered through the use of semi - structured interviews and a 6 item Likert type questionnaire with participants at beginning, middle and end of training. Semi - structured interviews were also conducted with trainers and managers at completion of training. The qualitative data was analysed using a thematic approach.

RESULTS

The results indicated significant impact on the participants in understanding and working with trauma from a psychodynamic perspective.

'The training has impacted positively on their practice and this has been particularly helpful given this team concentrates on working with people who have been in hospital for many years and with turbulent histories..' (quote from a manager)

Recommendations

There is no reason why the psychodynamic approach cannot position itself alongside Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) as a secondary and complementary approach (Gore *et al.*, 2013, 19). PBS is currently enjoying patronage by amongst others the *British Institute of Learning Disabilities*, and this has brought about calls for a national academy for the PBS approach. If such an academy comes to fruition then organisations such as RESPOND who offer training in psychodynamic approaches will be well placed to position their training as a legitimate secondary complementary approach within the PBS framework.