

Accredited education on site

Reporters

Janice Woodliffe and Mike Chendambuya at [Alpha Hospital](#) on 21 October 2014.

What do you do*?

We capture evidence of the skills that residents demonstrate whilst in our unit by taking photographs. This might be cooking skills or a myriad of other activities. We built a link with our local further education college and now a tutor visits for an hour a week to slot people's skills into the [NOCN](#) entry level awards (part of the Qualification and Assessment Specification) so that the person can be accredited for these competencies. These individual competencies earn learning credits and build up to awards so that certificates can be issued and this helps with motivation and helps the person gain access to a college-based course.

What is excellent about it?

This project enables us to formally recognise the skills demonstrated by patients in everyday activity. Recognition by the college can have more kudos than merely approval from a health worker and is recognised outside the service. Enabling the person to structure a path from the locked rehabilitation unit to the further education college boosts recovery and inclusion.

The tutor also gains awareness of the circumstances and needs of learners with mental health difficulties who live in locked services and this enhances the ability of the college to respond to other students.

Purchasing the service from the college enables the tutor to work with individuals rather than needing a class of a certain size, as would be the case in community education.

Even better next time?

We have submitted a proposal to expand this service, as it is popular and a real asset to the recovery process. We may discuss shared resourcing with the College in future, as this project could be seen as part of their Widening Participation

Stories of Striving for Excellence in Locked Rehabilitation Services

agenda. Helping more staff within the team to understand and engage with the process will increase the value of the project yet further.

* [NDTi](#) was commissioned to deliver a staff development programme promoting a more personalised and inclusive approach for those living and working in locked rehabilitation services in the English East Midlands. While the current inspection routine has a focus on risk prevention, our job is to focus on sharing positive practice and innovation. Peter Bates led the programme and wrote up these stories.

The Excellence Programme is for independent and voluntary sector providers of locked residential rehabilitation services for people with mental health issues or learning disabilities living in the East Midlands. It has delivered:

- A series of seminars for key staff and people using services to promote a more personalised and inclusive approach
- A shared sense of what excellent services look like, captured in an [Excellence Framework](#) document.
- Learning exchange visits between members which lead to individual action plans for each service
- Excellence stories that capture and share ideas for service improvement.

These case studies have arisen from members of the Excellence programme and NDTi has not independently verified what we have been told. Some are radical and ambitious approaches that transform the whole service, while others consist of small steps that may not seem especially exciting to other readers, but make a difference to one person. Some readers might even question whether progress is being made at all! The overall purpose is to stimulate reflection and celebration for every step forward, whether large or small.