

3c1

Ordinary Life Parallel

Do

Ensure that group activities in services are positively valued activities undertaken in the same way by the general public.

Story

We ensured that the activities in our mental health arts group were like those running in the local college and in community arts groups, and that similar products were being shown in community exhibitions and galleries. This has led to people moving on to further and higher education.

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Hints & Hazards

Many community activities have a parallel in care environments and this can be used as a starting point for inclusion work. On the other hand, care environments create many activities that have no parallel in community activities – or they adopt the activity and change it so that it is no longer the same. So trampolining becomes ‘rebound therapy’ and reading becomes ‘bibliotherapy’. There is a risk that people can get comfortable in the service-based provision and become reluctant to move into mainstream.

In general, we believe that it is much harder to promote opportunities for social inclusion from a group and building based service.