

Mind in Harrow

Hayaan Somali Mental Health Project:

Olole Isbedel – Campaign for Social Justice



HAYAAN PROJECT
(Moving to a Better Place)

For better mental health

Summary - This presentation

Summary of Olole Isbedel Year 1 Interim Report:

- Report includes 5 case study examples mapped across the criminal justice pathway
- Report concludes with key findings: Opportunities & Challenges
- Informs Year 2 of our campaign



Summary - This presentation

2 case study examples

Abdi Gure, Olole Isbedel Project Coordinator

Year 1 findings

Mark Gillham, CEO Mind in Harrow



Olole Isbedel – Case Studies

Case study example 1: BACKGROUND

- Male Somali late 40's
- Diagnosed with schizophrenia
- Under care of mental health services for 15 years
- Community hospital, mental health inpatient admissions & moved to independent living



Olole Isbedel – Case Studies

Case study example 1: ARREST & DETENTION

- In 2014, arrested by police for public harassment offenses
- Police contacted NHS mental health services
- Charged and remanded in prison awaiting trial
- Family not informed for 10 days
- Arrested previously as a result of mental ill-health



Olole Isbedel – Case Studies

Case study example 1: COURT & PRISON

- After 1 month, client's solicitor presents to the court that person has mental health problems
- Psychiatric not received and therefore trial date postponed
- After 4 months, person detained in prison with no psychiatric report completed and no trial date set.
- At 5 months, diverted to hospital treatment and after 4 months relapsed & arrested again



Olole Isbedel – Case Studies

Case study example 2: BACKGROUND

- Male Somali mid 20's
- Asylum seeker via America as a scholarship student
- Family already living in London for 4 years with full citizenship



Olole Isbedel – Case Studies

Case study example 2: ARREST & DETENTION

- After 6 months in London, he had an argument with his older brother and stabbed him with a knife.
- The family called the police.
- Charged and remanded in prison awaiting trial
- The brother had minor head injuries



Olole Isbedel – Case Studies

Case study example 2: COURT & PRISON

- While in prison at risk to deportation
- After 9 months, prison psychiatrist assesses that the person has mental health problems
- Diverted to hospital for treatment in a secure unit
- Further enquiries established that in America he had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder.



Olole Isbedel –Year 1 Findings

Year 1 Enquiry Report aims – in conference packs

- Developing a local evidence base
- Several case studies of Somalis' experiences of the mental health court diversion process
- Combined with professionals' perspective
- Identifying Challenges & Opportunities for action



Olole Isbedel –Year 1 Findings

Identified challenges

Prevention

- Breakdown in engagement between NHS mental health services and Somali patient and non-engagement with family

Arrest & Detention

- Police risk assessments may not identify Somali mental health problems
- Solicitors may not be aware of how an individual's mental health affects him/her.

Court & Prison

- Delays in psychiatric reports to court process



Olole Isbedel – Year 1 Findings

Identified Opportunities

Prevention

- Culturally-based advocacy & rehabilitation services and cultural hubs as access points to health services
- NHS Forensic mh services examples of successful diversion

Arrest & Detention

- MH Crisis Care Concordat, eg training for Police
- Appropriate Adult & Independent Visitor schemes

Court & Prison

- Draft NW London Urgent Care service specification incorporates needs of refugees



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