Since the initial implementation, the template has been shared into SystmOne in 2012, outstanding results have been produced in terms of the number of organisations now using the template across the country:
- The template is now available nationally for 610 organisations using SystmOne. This is over 7 times as many organisations as the initial 80 GP practices in Bradford and Airedale.
- The physical health template has been completed over 2,600 times, spanning 59 different CCGs across the country.
- 610 organisations with a version of the template.
- 2,600 health checks taken place.
- 34 copies of the template.
- 59 CCGs using the template.

A BACKGROUND TO THE TEMPLATE

Kate developed a specialist interest in the physical health of SMI patients following her participation in the ‘The Wellbeing Support Programme’, a national project in 2009. Outcomes revealed that people suffering with a serious mental illness die up to 20 years younger than the average population, mainly from preventable physical causes. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) was highlighted as the major cause of death, which alone outnumbered the deaths from suicide.

In response to this, when Kate took a secondment to Douglas Mill Primary Care, she developed the data entry template working alongside Kate Beedle, Data Quality Specialist, Dr Angela Moulson, GP with a Special Interest in Mental Health (GPwSI), and Dr David Yeomans, Consultant Psychiatrist.

It was built in line with NICE Bipolar and Schizophrenia Guidance before being piloted in 6 practices within Bradford and Airedale. Following this, the template was rolled out to all 80 practices, with training provided to all sites.

Dr Moulson, involved in developing the template, recently stressed how practical and easy it was to use by healthcare professionals during consultations:

“As a GP, I love it. The information collected in SystmOne is coded, retrievable, measurable and can be audited. It’s a really smart tool. We have seen a dramatic improvement in recording and intervention, for example, a 56% increase in recording blood glucose.”

“I think mandating the template nationally would lead to dramatic improvements in making interventions for SMI patients in terms of physical health. It would be great if this could be incentivised again for GPs.”

– Dr Angela Moulson, GPwSI in mental health

The template has been so successful across primary care in Bradford, the template has now also been replicated in secondary care to allow more patients to receive a robust physical health check, and for this information to be shared between primary and secondary care.

FUTURE GOALS

To further encourage national uptake, Kate is receiving support from the Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network (AHSN). This collaboration is focusing on rolling out the template for secondary care in Yorkshire and the Humber, as well as a number of pilot CCGs across Yorkshire and the Humber, offering training and support as required.

“I’m delighted to be working for the Yorkshire at Humber AHSN to support their member organisations to improve the physical health of patients with serious mental illness. One important way Yorkshire at Humber AHSN members can do this is by using the Physical Health Review template, which is readily available to use in SystmOne. What makes the template so effective in SystmOne is its simplicity and ease of data capture. It’s really important that we maintain these features moving forward.”

– Kate Dale, Physical Health Lead, Yorkshire & Humber AHSN and BDCFT.

PATIENT EXPERIENCES

Kate shared with TPP some of the interventions and treatments that had taken place with patients due to the template.

Jahan had not received a health check for a number of years. His blood test flagged that he had abnormalities with his Liver Function and required further treatment.

I discussed this with his GP, and he was referred to a Consultant at Airedale Hospital to receive the care and advice he was in need of. Jahn later moved out of the area to escape the peer group he was involved with to gain a better lifestyle.

John had not had thorough GP consultations in the past as he was not comfortable during his appointments. As he had a good rapport of trust in me, he allowed me to carry out his physical health check. Following his Blood test it was flagged up that he may have possible Lymphoma. I discussed this with his Care Coordinator and passed on all information to his GP. I also explained the findings in the simplest terms I could without wanting to worry or upset him in anyway. Following the subsequent test it was found that jahan didn’t have Lymphoma, but did get a diagnosis of Sarcoïdiasis in his lungs. He is now receiving the necessary support and treatment that he requires.

Please note that names have been changed to protect patient confidentiality.