Chapter 9: Shared Care and Interprofessional Practice

Introduction

The majority of mental health professionals that have experience of working with people with a dual diagnosis will have witnessed endless games of professional 'ping-pong'. Services for mentally ill people bat the referral across to drug or alcohol agencies, only to see the dazed and confused client knocked swiftly back across the invisible service line by a drug worker keen to keep substance misuse services free of people with mental illness. Often, after numerous discussions behind closed doors as to the suitability of this particular 'referral', the unseen and often much maligned individual has long since disappeared, having ‘fallen through the net' of professional provision, thus unwittingly confirming their supposed unreliability and lack of motivation. Months or years later, the same rejected individual reappears at the doors of less discriminating voluntary services or, all too frequently, is delivered through the swing doors of the local casualty department.

Fortunately, as dual diagnosis has become increasingly commonplace and recognised it has been acknowledged that a range of different agencies and workers need to work together in order to provide skilled and effective care for people with a combination of substance misuse problems and mental illness. Government policy in England now requires high quality, patient focused, integrated care for people with dual diagnoses to be delivered within 'mainstream' services. Drug and alcohol services will continue to treat people with substance misuse problems but are also required to advise and work closely with their colleagues in primary care and mental health services, often providing collaborative approaches to treatment, care and support (Department of Health, 2003).

But cross-agency and inter-professional working does not necessarily come easily and there is evidence to suggest that misunderstandings, tensions and philosophical differences frequently diminish the undoubted benefits that effective joint working can bring to both service users and staff. These Alan Simpson
difficulties are even more likely to exist where managers and workers operate within organisations that adhere to different, even contradictory philosophical beliefs and clinical approaches. This is often the case between psychiatric and substance misuse services or where staff in statutory services work alongside staff from the voluntary sector. Organisations may exhibit different attitudes and adopt contrary stances towards treatment regimes, harm minimisation, communication, management of aggression, risk and safety and issues of confidentiality.

This chapter will outline some of the benefits of shared care, interprofessional collaboration and teamwork. It will also explore some of the tensions and difficulties frequently reported and suggest some of the measures that can and should be taken to minimise conflict and maximise co-operation, co-ordination and the provision of effective, integrated teamwork. For the purposes of this chapter, the term teamwork will be used interchangeably with interprofessional or collaborative practice. It is defined to include any situation where professional or non-professional workers from different disciplines or agencies are required to work closely with the service user and each other in order to ensure that health and social care needs are met. The issues discussed will be applicable whether staff work in primary care, in hospitals, in community services, or across any or all of these. First, I will outline the policy framework that underpins interprofessional practice for people with a dual diagnosis.

**Case management, the Care Programme Approach and dual diagnosis**

Case management aims to target resources at those in most need; reduce duplication and disorganisation in service provision; and ensure the co-ordinated delivery of a range of services to vulnerable and needy people. The exact shape and nature of case management is determined by the design and philosophy of the system created to deliver it and the context in which it operates (Intagliata, 1982). Since the early 1990s, services for people with mental illness in England have operated within the framework
of the Care Programme Approach (CPA), a loosely defined form of case management (Simpson, Miller & Bowers, 2003a).

The essential motivation underpinning the CPA is commendable. It aimed to provide a seamless service for mentally ill people, addressing both health and social care needs through an integrated and co-ordinated approach. When implemented well, it enables multi-disciplinary staff to provide an agreed plan of care whilst minimising inter-professional conflict and maximising opportunities for joint working. But the CPA was not well implemented or resourced and was unaccompanied by appropriate training. It was associated with political and media attacks on community care, copious paperwork and bureaucratic procedures and was seen as part of an emerging ‘blame culture’. This led to patchy service provision, little enthusiasm amongst staff and minimal impact on service users and carers (Simpson, Miller & Bowers, 2003b).

In response to the uneven implementation of the CPA and concerns that there was too much focus on the administrative aspects, the policy was reformed (Department of Health, 1999). People with a dual diagnosis were explicitly identified to be included under the CPA for the first time, whether they were located in mental health or substance misuse services. This entitled them to an assessment of their health and social care needs and the allocation of a named care co-ordinator who develops a plan of care in consultation with the service user, their family or informal carers and various care providers. This written care plan, which should consider and reflect the service user’s culture, ethnicity, gender and sexuality, is given to the user. Copies are given to the GP, family carers and all health and social care staff involved. This might include workers in voluntary agencies, staff in hostels or supported accommodation, as well as workers in mental health and substance misuse services.

The care co-ordinator ensures that contact is maintained with the user and that the agreed services and interventions are delivered. The care plan should be regularly reviewed and modified as and when needs and Alan Simpson
circumstances change. Risk assessment and management is an essential and on-going part of the CPA process and should include consideration of risk of neglect, exploitation and harm from others, self-harm, suicide and anything that threatens the safety of others. Alongside an increased propensity to suicide (Appleby, Shaw, Amos, & McDonnel, 1999) and aggression (Taylor & Gunn, 1999; Walsh & Fahy, 2002), substance misuse also raises potential child protection concerns which may require specialist assessment and support (Department of Health, 2003).

People with more complex needs such as dual diagnosis receive the 'enhanced' version of the CPA (see Table 9.1). Enhanced care plans should include instructions on what to do in a crisis and details of how to contact someone during non-office hours. They should also incorporate contingency plans so that continuous care and support is provided even when key personnel are not available, whether through sickness, holidays or any unforeseen situations (Department of Health, 1999).

Although there is variable evidence concerning the effectiveness of the CPA, the evidence for case management approaches generally is more positive, if not without controversy and disagreement (Simpson, Miller & Bowers, 2003a). The key factors identified in the provision of effective case management are identified in Table 9.2. Without doubt, an assertive approach to engagement and intervention, involving a high level of persistent outreach, is likely to be a key component of the work with people with a dual diagnosis. This is especially so for those who are frequently re-admitted to hospital, who are chaotic, homeless, or resistant to psychiatric and substance misuse services. Other aspects of case management, such as providing advice and support to obtain appropriate accommodation, finances and employment are also likely to be crucial aspects of the work. The use of specific evidence-based psychosocial interventions (Baguley & Baguley, 1999), including those specifically addressing substance misuse, should also be an important component of the care co-ordinator's role. However, there can be tensions in this regard unless organisational factors

Alan Simpson
such as excessive workload and lack of clinical supervision are addressed (Grant & Mills, 2000; Simpson, Bowers & Miller, 2003a&b).

More importantly, the successful discharge of individual responsibilities under case management can only be achieved when clinicians are working as part of a good team (Department of Health, 1999; Shepherd, 1995). And effective teamwork is absolutely imperative when the nature of work with users requires a high level of communication and co-operation or inter-dependence between workers in order to "get the job done" (Onyett, 2002: p84). This lies at the heart of successful work with people with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance misuse.

**Benefits of shared care and effective teamwork**

Summarising research in private and public sector organisations, West (1999) argued that teams are seen as the most effective way of delivering services with positive effects on performance, quality, efficiency, profits, staff turnover and redundancy. In mental health services, multi-disciplinary teams (CMHTs) are generally perceived to be the most appropriate delivery system for effective community care (Department of Health, 2002). Advantages include multidisciplinary assessment of needs, access to a wide range of skills and disciplines, continuity of care, shared responsibility for clients and decisions, professional support and improved management of workload (Hall, 2000). CMHT care for people with severe mental illness helps services maintain contact with users, reduces the risk of suicide, cuts the time spent in hospital and is popular with patients (Tyrer et al., 2002).

Features that appeared to be key to effective interdisciplinary teamwork were identified by Proctor-Childs, Freeman & Miller (1998) and include:

- A commitment to a shared philosophy of teamwork that has been consciously worked through;
- Leadership with a vision, supported by senior professionals who cascade those beliefs to their own discipline;

Alan Simpson
A focus on user-led work that encourages reflection on practice;  
A high level of role understanding facilitated by joint working practices, which enhance role visibility;  
Joint care planning and goal setting that allows exploration of professional values and beliefs; and  
The sharing of knowledge, skills and information, which develops 'team knowledge'.

Effective interdisciplinary working requires each profession to understand what other staff are doing and why. It incorporates an appreciation of how other disciplines understand knowledge and the methods by which it is gained and used. Conflict resolution, including an appreciation of the difference between responsibility and accountability, is also central. A study of seven health and social care teams in various settings found clear benefits for service users where teams worked in this more integrated, collaborative fashion (Miller et al., 2001). Benefits include:

- Continuity of care, where professionals 'carry over' interventions initiated by colleagues;  
- Consistency of approach and reduction of ambiguity with a high level of shared, agreed knowledge provided to users;  
- Appropriate referrals to team colleagues based on an understanding of each other's roles;  
- An holistic approach derived from joint planning and working, and  
- High levels of constructive problem solving.

However, they found that 'fragmented' working in which individual professionals often worked well but not as part of a team focus was much more commonplace. Where this occurred, many aspects of patient management such as problem solving, decision-making and responsibility for actions were related to single professional groups. Partly as a result, communication between team members was relatively brief and tended to involve giving of information rather than sharing of professional perspectives. In such teams, role understanding was superficial with staff Alan Simpson
unable or unwilling to develop an in-depth understanding of each other's roles. Professionals reinforced the 'mono-professional' nature of clinical practice by actively protecting role boundaries. Team leadership was often problematic and tended to create an unsafe environment in which communication and learning was stifled and multiprofessional collaboration unsupported. As a result, skills and knowledge remained within individual professional groups and the benefits of teamworking were rarely discussed, realised or demonstrated (Miller et al., 2001).

Effective teamworking is strongly related to the quality teamwork. A major three-year study of over 400 health care teams in England and Scotland including 113 CMHTs, found that effective teams were those that had clearer team objectives, enabled higher levels of participation; had a greater emphasis on quality and higher support for innovation (Borrill et al 2000). The better the level of communication in meetings and the more integration between different staff the better and more innovative were the approaches to patient care. More reflective CMHTs were found to be more innovative. Reflective teams are those that "reflect upon their objectives, strategies, processes and their organisational and wider environments; plan to adapt to their tasks, and make changes accordingly" (West, 1999: p13).

Team leadership was again found to be important. Where there was lack of clear leadership team members reported low levels of effectiveness and this was associated with poor quality team working, less participation and lack of clarity about objectives. In all types of health care teams studied, Borrill et al., (2000) also found that better team functioning was associated with better mental health amongst staff. In contrast, staff in teams with poor leadership and low levels of communication had poorer mental health.

The findings from these studies suggest that any attempt to establish shared care arrangements for people with dual diagnoses will need to ensure a number of key factors are in place. These include:

Alan Simpson
Safe environments and meetings in which effective sharing of information and professional knowledge takes place;

Structures and support that enable high levels of constructive participation, joint planning of care and decision-making;

Multi-professional support for strong, consensual leadership that considers, includes, values and unites the different professions; and

Clear aims and objectives for the team with an underpinning philosophy of high quality user-focused care, team reflexivity and responsiveness.

These will be absolutely crucial for the success of shared care projects and the provision of effective, innovative care. However, there is plentiful evidence that numerous barriers and difficulties are likely to threaten integrated working unless these are recognised, considered and addressed. I shall consider these now.

**Problems with inter-agency and inter-professional practice**

Attempts to establish multidisciplinary teamwork in health and social care have faced numerous difficulties, with the potential benefits often not realised (Leathard, 1994; West & Poulton, 1997). Barriers, often predicated on issues of hierarchy, class and gender, include communication difficulties, power imbalances, interpersonal and interprofessional conflict, differing leadership styles, inequalities in status and pay and various organisational factors (Firth-Cozens, 1998; Leathard, 1994). The tendency for professional workers to protect their individual positions rather than work co-operatively is always likely to be a key obstacle to the successful working of multi-disciplinary teams (Beeforth et al., 1990).

Mackay, Soothill and Webb (1995) have argued that doctors in particular, being the dominant profession, have a lot to lose through interprofessional collaboration and may understandably resist any loss of their power or authority. Inter-group stereotypes also hamper effective team working (Carpenter, 1995), and tend to underpin some of the 'games', tactics and negotiations that have characterised communication and interactions.

Alan Simpson
between doctors and nurses over the years (Allen, 1997; Stein, 1978; Wicks, 1998). Relations between nurses and social workers can also be difficult (Edwards & Garrety, 1998) with each bringing their own historical allegiances, suppositions and strong ideological differences (Brown, 1989; Bywaters, 1989; Dalley, 1989). It has even been suggested that community mental health teams were at least partly created to contain and resolve the tensions between professional groups without explicitly addressing the fundamental differences in culture and practice between the different agencies and professions (Onyett et al., 1997; Peck, 1995). The addition of substance misuse workers with another set of approaches, ideas and philosophies can only add to the interprofessional fun and games.

Different professional groups tend to hold different views about the role and importance of teams, with psychiatrists and psychologists in particular often experiencing high levels of conflict over issues of leadership, responsibility and philosophical approaches (Mistral & Velleman, 1997). A range of views are essential to a multidisciplinary approach but where destructive differences are not addressed those in inferior hierarchical positions tend to feel alienated with the potential loss of their knowledge and input to the team (Cott, 1998). The Confidential Inquiry into Homicides and Suicides found that inter-professional disagreements were often detrimental to the care of the user with the potential for tragic consequences (Royal College of Psychiatrists, 1996).

In my own research into community psychiatric nurses (CPNs) working in CMHTs, CPNs in teams marked by more problematic inter-professional dynamics did not participate or communicate as readily in team meetings (Simpson, 2004). They and other team members, including social workers and occupational therapists, were inhibited and their ability to discuss and co-ordinate the care of their clients was severely hampered. Where there was a perceived lack of safety in the team meetings, CPNs and others failed to disclose and discuss important information about service users that included issues of serious risk. When psychiatrists acted disrespectfully or when they undermined the contribution of other professionals, staff tended
to reduce their participation, withdraw from meetings and assume defensive or even obstructive positions within the team. There is enormous potential for such inter-disciplinary tensions in teams drawn from different agencies and professions to meet the needs of people with dual diagnoses.

Staff working within multi-disciplinary teams are often reluctant to comply with operational directives aimed at facilitating interagency working. They adhere to their own professional cultures and there is an absence of a strong philosophy of care shared by all groups. Factors originating in training and maintained by professional socialisation can undermine attempts to establish and sustain inter-professional collaboration (Norman & Peck, 1999). Staff, particularly psychiatrists and psychologists, often express concerns over the loss of autonomy and revert to their own professional groups for 'protection'. Norman and Peck (1999) suggested that community psychiatric nurses (CPNs) were less concerned over loss of autonomy as they had always worked within hierarchies. However, this is contradicted by other research in which CPNs greatly resented the loss of clinical autonomy that came with CMHT working. CPNs closely managed by a combination of psychiatrists, team managers and senior managers expressed concerns about the dilution of their role and the impact on professional boundaries (Kashi & Littlewood, 2000). CPNs felt that they were being "redirected towards traditional activities [and] controlled by psychiatrists" and experienced "increasing professional rivalry and suspicions within the practice arena" (ibid: p13). In my own study, CPNs often reported concern that their traditional psychotherapeutic role was being subsumed by the need to address social care needs previously associated with the social worker role (Simpson, 2004); a finding reported elsewhere (Miller & Freeman, 2003).

Role substitution or generic working leads to concerns that "role boundaries are muddled, resulting in unclear lines of accountability and responsibility and deskilling" (Norman & Peck, 1999: p223). There are also concerns that such moves reduce the range of skills available within a team to meet users’ needs. This can create increased adherence to professional culture, Alan Simpson
defensive manoeuvres and inflexible demarcation as roles are defended stoutly:

Roles and responsibilities of mental health staff are integral to the professional persona and are likely to be defended rigorously [...] these roles and responsibilities are reinforced by professional ideologies, models of working, professional training, status and reward. (Norman & Peck, 1999: p228)

In a study of role boundaries in three CMHTs in middle England, Brown, Crawford and Darongkamas (2000), reported that different team members saw role boundaries differently. They either saw role boundaries as something to work towards removing in order to develop interdisciplinary teamwork, or expressed concern that the erosion of boundaries would result in role confusion and the development of 'generic' mental health workers. In such a model, all team members would be doing the same or 'meddling' in each others' areas of expertise, when they saw it as a strength and an advantage that the CMHTs could offer service users a variety of skills and approaches from different professional backgrounds. So, there was a dichotomy between those who thought it important that different professions maintained their separateness, whilst others within the same teams believed that it was beneficial for professional roles to 'blur' or develop to incorporate skills and knowledge from team colleagues. A third point of view wanted team members to concentrate on what they were each good at and to recognise and communicate the limits of their own knowledge and expertise.

Clearly, in the light of these findings any attempt to introduce new roles or to redefine existing roles or responsibilities need to be considered and implemented skilfully. This is particularly so at a time of enormous change in which many professionals feel under threat and are uncertain of their professional status and futures (Kennedy & Griffiths, 2000).
Structure and procedures

Brown *et al* (2000) also drew attention to the importance of structure within teams. Decisions had been made to introduce a level of ‘democracy’ in the running of the teams, so for example, a ‘rolling chair’ for team meetings was introduced with a different person chairing or taking minutes each week. However, this additional lack of clear structure left most people unhappy, feeling ill equipped and unprepared for such tasks. As a result the meetings and the team itself were experienced as insufficiently stable or secure, reinforcing a "sense of inadequacy rather than creating empowerment" (ibid: p431). Several staff members were required to work across different teams, which also undermined the coherence of the teams studied. The authors suggested that contrary to the aims of the management, attempts to remove boundaries were having the effect of reinforcing them.

In my study involving seven CMHTs, there were also difficulties when teams lacked clear objectives or there were a lack of structure or agreed procedures (Simpson, 2004). This included arrangements for accepting referrals, allocating work within teams and running the team meetings and led to repetition of work and time wasting as the same issues were continually rehashed. It also created resentment and suspicion when workers perceived that others were 'not pulling their weight' or were not subject to the same organisational demands and strictures.

Other studies in both hospital and community health and social care settings have stressed the importance of boundaries and structures in the maintenance of workers' psychological safety and security (Menzies, 1960; Bowers, 1992; Bray, 1999). Such personal security, it has been argued, is essential in allowing staff to feel secure in their work with service users. Onyett *et al* (1997) stressed the need for organisational managers to ensure that multidisciplinary teams have clear aims and objectives and good internal structures for operational management. Ovretveit (1993; 1997) made similar recommendations for the design and planning of teams and suggested that whilst personalities are important, lack of operational Alan Simpson
structure makes it difficult for even the "most willing and co-operative of people to collaborate with others" (Ovretveit, 1993: p3). He explained how there are usually organisational or structural explanations for difficulties within teams that are frequently blamed on 'personality clashes':

For example, issues like a team leader not being able to get the information needed from a team member, or a team never confronting or making difficult decisions, are often explained in terms of the personalities involved. Or a legitimate concern about the quality of another team member's work is reduced to a 'conflict of personalities', when there were not agreed arrangements for monitoring and support, or arrangements for properly addressing and raising such issues without 'personalising' them. (Ovretveit, 1993: p3)

As well as conflict within teams, there is also enormous potential for conflict between the team and the parent organisation, even more so when teams are answerable to a variety of statutory and voluntary organisations. Conflicting boundaries within therapeutic organisations tend to be problematic, especially where governmental or managerial policies are at odds with the therapeutic priorities held by the clinicians and service users. In certain circumstances teams can become united in their conflict with organisations but in such situations it is rare that the needs of either the team or the service users will prevail (Pietroni, 1995). Tension between clinical teams and organisations was identified in focus groups made up of 'experts' in mental health that included practitioners, educators, academics, service users and carers. Staff saw the risk-aversive organisational culture of NHS health trusts as obstacles to delivering effective care (Warner et al., 2001).

The potential for disagreements about issues of risk is likely to be magnified when working with people with dual diagnosis. The potential for risky scenarios is greater and the chances that staff from different agencies will share perspectives on how best to assess, predict and manage risky behaviours are likely to be remote. It is important that staff are aware of these potential interprofessional 'hot-spots' and are able to discuss and

Alan Simpson
agree a pragmatic, shared approach. One issue that often complicates such discussions is that of patient confidentiality, which is discussed next.

**Confidentiality**

Issues around confidentiality and disclosure are often difficult for mental health staff. The number of people and agencies involved in the care of people using mental health services can be surprising. Alongside immediate staff that may include GPs, psychiatrists, various nurses and health care assistants, occupational therapists, psychologists, social workers and advocates there can be a range of other people and agencies involved, each acquiring and passing on sensitive client information. Other staff that might frequently be involved could include benefits and financial advisors, social security staff, housing officers and housing support workers. Szmukler and Holloway (2001) have outlined just how difficult if not impossible it is to maintain client confidentiality in mental health services given the vast range of services involved. The addition of substance misuse services simply magnifies the problem. Alongside the addition of drug and alcohol workers, needle exchange staff and counsellors, it is not unusual for people with substance misuse problems to have contact with the police, probation officers, solicitors and court officials.

Staff working in various agencies might have quite different expectations regarding what constitutes confidential information. There might be difficult situations where information considered personal and confidential by one person is considered absolutely crucial information that needs to be passed on and documented by others before key decisions can be made. For example, discussions over the allocation of accommodation would involve consideration of previous criminal and other risky behaviour in order to consider the safety of other residents in shared accommodation or neighbourhoods. It would not be untypical for such issues to be factors in the lives of people with drug and alcohol histories.

Alan Simpson
Issues of confidentiality can be particularly complex and challenging for staff working with people who abuse illicit substances. The position concerning knowledge of possible illegal behaviour by clients and the responsibilities of service providers and their staff to act on that knowledge has become more sensitive and grievous following the case of the 'Cambridge Two' in the late 1990s (Simpson, 2000). The director and manager of a day centre for homeless people in Cambridge, England, were jailed for five and four years respectively when the courts found that they had not taken sufficient steps to prevent the selling of illicit drugs on or in the vicinity of their premises. The severe sentences passed on two experienced and respected workers, Ruth Wyner and John Brock, have serious implications for staff in a range of health and social care settings. People who have a drug addiction often sell small amounts to their friends as a way of financing their drug use. The judge's ruling in this case says that if staff are aware of the trading of drugs and do not take action to prevent it they are guilty of "knowingly permitting" the supply of the drug and could face prosecution and a hefty jail sentence.

In such a complex environment and when dealing with such potentially devastating situations, it is imperative that staff working jointly with people with a dual diagnosis ensure that they have a clear and agreed understanding of where their responsibilities lie. There should be a clear policy and guidelines on the sharing and disclosure of client information with particular attention paid to potential risk factors and criminal activity.

**Conclusion**

It is now recognised that a range of different agencies and workers are required to work together in order to provide skilled and effective care for people with a combination of substance misuse problems and mental illness. The evidence suggests that both service users and staff stand to benefit from well-planned, integrated teamwork. It is also clear that there are numerous tensions and difficulties that, if not considered and

Alan Simpson
addressed, hold the potential to derail any attempt at establishing shared care and teamwork. Consider the following essential points:

- Encourage open discussion of roles and responsibilities between mental health staff and substance misuse workers and establish an agreed, written operating policy that should include a review date.
- Encourage role shadowing and sharing in order to develop knowledge and understanding of each other’s roles, skills and underpinning philosophies.
- Establish regular team teaching sessions or ‘master classes’, in which one or more members lead an exploration of their professional contribution to the care of service users.
- Establish a mechanism for discussing and resolving disputes and differences of opinion. If you have a procedure you will be less likely to use it. If you do not have one, disagreements often become intractable arguments.
- Identify and discuss areas of potential conflict and seek compromise and agreement, e.g. referral criteria, admission and discharge criteria; abstinence vs harm-minimisation, risk assessment and management, confidentiality.
- Establish clear leadership and organise regular reviews of working practices, procedures and policies. Use the arrival of new staff or the introduction of new national or local policies to reflect on the aims and purpose of the team.
References


Department of Health. (2003). What To Do If You're Worried a Child is Being

Alan Simpson


Alan Simpson
Chapter 9: Shared Care and Interprofessional practice

Alan Simpson


Alan Simpson


Table 9.1: Characteristics of those people more likely to be on the 'enhanced' level of the Care Programme Approach (CPA)

- Multiple care needs, including housing, employment, finances, etc; requiring inter-agency co-ordination;
- Contact with a number of agencies (including the Criminal Justice System);
- More frequent and intensive interventions, perhaps with medication management;
- Mental health problems co-existing with other problems such as substance misuse;
- More likely to be at risk of harming themselves or others;
- More likely to disengage with services.

Table 9.2: Factors identified in effective case management approaches*

| Reasonable caseloads for case manager and team | Persistent, assertive approach for challenging & resistant service users |
| Clinical role for case manager and use of psychosocial interventions | Team planning, input and support with good team leadership |
| Development of therapeutic relationship with users | Medication management (essential with dual diagnosis) |
| Long-term relationship with users, responsive to changing needs | Encourage engagement with 'mainstream' community services |
| Help with accommodation, finances, employment, legal system, etc | Psychoeducation and support with families and other carers |
| Aim to maximise self-determination of users | Focus on individuals' strengths, interests and resources |
| Majority of contact in community settings not office or hospital | Extended out-of-hours service and 24-hour emergency access |
| Support with and development of daily living skills | Ongoing training, development and supervision of workers |

*Adapted from Simpson, Miller & Bowers, 2003a.