



The 1st HEIW / SCW virtual conference 'Informing the future of the **Mental Health Workforce** in Wales'

Case Study

Early intervention in psychosis (EIP)

What did you do and why?

Early intervention in psychosis (EIP) services support individuals aged 14 – 25, following a first episode of Psychosis. Within EIP there is an emphasis on normal social roles, clients' developmental needs, promoting recovery and independence, and achieving education and employment.

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) has been internationally recognised as the most effective method of supporting people with severe enduring mental illness into sustainable and competitive employment.

Using Welsh government funding the first IPS project in Wales was developed in collaboration with Mind Cymru. Led by an occupational Therapist,

The project built on previous collaboration between Hywel Dda Health Board, Department of work and Pensions, employment support services and local employers. The service employs three part time employment support workers who support individuals into work, education or training. Support is offered as long as required and includes:

- Job/course matching to client preference and skills
- interview and CV writing support
- Negotiating workplace adjustments
- prompting individuals to maintain their work roles
- providing transport information
- mediating between individuals and their employers
- Communicating relapse indicators to key

What was the impact on service users?

72% service users returned or started work, education or training during the first year. Service users have made a film demonstrating their positive experience. The project has won an NHS Wales Award and has been shortlisted for the Guardian Award in the Advancing Health Care Awards 2020. With investment in funding. We hope to replicate this approach across adult secondary mental health services utilising the unique skills that Occupational Therapists bring to vocational rehabilitation.