



Case study: streamlining the learning disabilities psychiatry caseload in Kirklees

Find out how the **Kirklees learning disabilities health team** have streamlined their caseload to enable people to be seen more quickly.

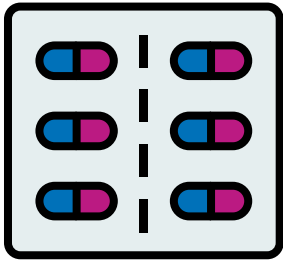
In 2021, the Kirklees learning disabilities (LD) health team caseload was disproportionately high compared to other areas of our region.

Looking to address this demand, Dr Sarah Talari, medical lead for learning disability services, focused on streamlining the psychiatry caseload to provide patient centred care. A specific emphasis was made to review those service users who receive polypharmacy (the simultaneous use of multiple medicines by a patient for their conditions) and who may have been prescribed complex medication regimes for several years.

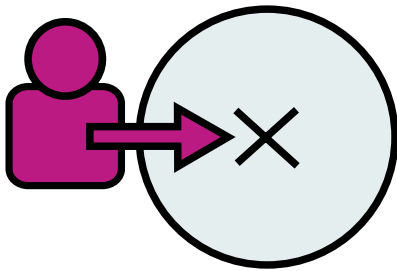
The caseload reviews aimed to achieve three main outcomes through identifying those who:

- can be discharged,
- have ongoing need of the service, and
- need to be signposted to other services.





Given that a large majority of referrals come from the community, clinical leads in nursing, psychology and AHPs, alongside operational managers, changed the duty system so community calls go the duty person. This allowed for multi-disciplinary team (MDT) management of service users and a reduction in the reliance on psychotropic medication in the first instance.



Caseload reviews were also helpful in providing additional information, such as identifying those who are on polypharmacy for stopping overmedication of people (STOMP) clinics.

Through undertaking the caseload reviews alongside implementing a duty team, staff have been able to better manage conditions, improve service user experience, and provide more timely intervention, which has all contributed to more person-centred care. Discharging to appropriate services, medication reductions and stopping unnecessary medication has also led to creating further efficiencies for the service and the Trust.

The success of the reviews and the duty system was reviewed at the end of 2022. It was found that for most patients who had been on complex medication regimes for several years, changes could be made which supported appropriate discharges, medication reductions and discontinuation. Between March 2021 and December 2022:

42

PATIENTS

had their psychotropic medication stopped

25

PATIENTS

had their medication reduced

71

NEW REFERRALS

were added to the existing caseload

127

PEOPLE

were discharged with only one referral, keeping in check what would otherwise have been an exponential rise in caseload numbers, well above 500.

Dr Thiyagesh, chief medical officer, in her role as the executive sponsor for LD services is supporting Dr Talari in helping replicate this dynamic piece of work across the Trust wide LD services.

If you would like any further information, please email Dr Talari - Sarah.Talari@swyt.nhs.uk

If you require a copy of this information in any other format or language please contact your line manager or healthcare worker at the Trust.

With **all of us** in mind.