

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust

The Community Forensic Adult Learning Disability Team hosted a Conference 'Building hope for better lives' to raise awareness of their work and learning over the past 10 years on the 15th November 2019.

Aim:

- To provide attenders with an awareness of the successful development of the Adult Learning Disability Forensic Team in the Southern Health & Social Care Trust
- To highlight the value of therapeutic input and structured social activities for clients with a forensic presentation.
- To recognise the importance of using strength based approaches in working with clients who have a learning disability and a forensic presentation.

Learning Outcomes:

- To extend knowledge of the range of professional roles and responsibilities within Adult Learning Disability Forensic Services.
- To share good practice and enhance services moving forward
- To build bridges/promote joined up working with other Forensic Teams, Agencies and the Community/Voluntary Sector



Over 100 people attended the event including Service Users, staff, carers and partners from statutory and community organisations

Mary Donaghy, Mental Health & Learning Disability Lead & Think Family NI Lead from the HSC Board opened the conference with other speakers including Noreen McComiskey, Specialist Services Manager for Adult Disability, Gareth McGibbon, Social Work Consultant, Dr Helen Walker, Nurse Consultant, Scottish Forensic Network, Dr Adrian East, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Dr Carolyn Mitchell,

Consultant Forensic Psychologist, Noel Mc Donald, Forensic Managed Care Network (NI) Manager.

The Southern Trust's Community Forensic Adult Learning Disability Team has hosted a conference to raise awareness of their work and learning over the past 10 years. The Team offers a range of therapeutic interventions and services to adults with learning disability who have already or could potentially have contact with the criminal justice system.

Over 100 people attended the event including service users, staff, carers and partners from statutory and community organizations.

The Southern Trust was the first in Northern Ireland to set up a Community Adult Learning Disability Forensic Team which has a range of multidisciplinary staff and offers a range of specialist day time opportunities.

Speaking at the event, Noreen McComiskey, Specialist Services Manager for Adult Disability for the Trust said:

“We are committed to improving services which promote independence for all services users. Whilst this can be a particular challenge for those with a forensic background, we are keen to work together with all agencies to support service users and their carers to live independently in the community. The success of this service is undoubtedly a result of the commitment of our dedicated staff team and their broad skill mix.”



The ARC center Bessbrook Co Armagh. The ARC (animal re-homing and horticultural centre) is a partnership between the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and the USPCA and provides daytime opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. It runs five days a week with many activities...animal husbandry, art, horticulture and environmental projects. There are several others including cooking, self help, woodwork, pottery, music, walking groups and a sports programme which run throughout the year.

