Lifemusic on an Inpatient Neuropsychiatry Ward

A Quality Improvement Project

Dr Veronika Wagner, Associate Specialist in Neuropsychiatry and Wessex QI Fellow 2016/2017

St James’ Hospital Portsmouth

Project Aim: to enhance experience and wellbeing of inpatients who are undergoing neuropsychiatric rehabilitation, usually for acquired brain injury. The project uses the Lifemusic method developed by Dr Rod Paton

Methods: Staff rating - Adapted Music in Dementia Assessment Scales (MiDAS)- five domains: Interest, Response, Initiation, Involvement, Enjoyment, 0-10/10 visual analogue scale, four time points/ session. Patient self rating - accessible five point scale, four domains, assisted as needed. Facilitator – reflective qualitative log

Project Evaluation: via adapted MiDAS scales, patient self rating, qualitative reflection

Case Study 1 – see left

Good engagement and initiation of playing instruments (mostly xylophone) and singing. The patient chose and sang the closing song (God save the Queen), with the group accompanying her.

• At times she praised other patients in a slightly over-involved manner but remained polite and friendly throughout

Case Study 2 – see right

• 10 sessions, one patient

Four time points per session, five domains (xx/50) measured at each point, plus averages and self rating (xx/20)

“Good concentration for 50 mins. Pt experimented with and experienced different sounds/ textures of tapping a rhythm with a wooden beater against different surfaces (table, plastic cup, xylophone, felt mat, another wooden instrument).

• He showed evidence of rhythmical perseveration as he initiated a rhythm that had just previously been played in the group.”

Outcome:

1. Use of MiDAS and accessible self rating feasible
2. Good commitment from staff and patients
3. Five MiDAS domains improved during sessions then fell again but not back to baseline

Next step: Lifemusic sessions on a different ward