

10th Anniversary of The Mental Health Education Project at Hackney Community College

The Mental Health Education Project was in April 1997 through a partnership initiative between The East London & City Mental Health Trust and Hackney Community College.

This pioneering project was set up to support and increase the access of mental health service users into mainstream education, training and employment opportunities.

Over the last 10 years the Mental Health Education Project has advised over 3000 people, a large number of these have been supported back in to Education, Training and Employment. The project is recognised by NIACE (National Institute for Adults Continuing Education) as a model of excellence.

Aims of the Mental Health Education Project -

- To facilitate access, and support to mental health service users who are currently studying or thinking about returning to mainstream education and training programmes
- To provide one-to-one advice, guidance, and support to mental health service users to engage in education, training / employment.
- To support known students with mental health problems
- To provide information and advice to NHS and Social Services staff on accessing education for mental health service users.
- To support, advise and raise awareness of mental health issues among College staff.
- To liaise with key College staff to ensure appropriate, flexible provision are developed and delivered to Mental Health Service Users within community venues, NHS Trust etc.

Many people have progressed into employment, 10 people have gained a professional qualification in teaching. One of these students who would like to remain anonymous shares the impact this service has had on his life below -

“I have benefited greatly by the services this projects offers, I can honestly say, had it not been for the concerted efforts made by this team, I would not be in teaching today, which I do gladly and whole heartedly. I am thankful for this project at Hackney Community College and have personally benefited from it, I hope it continues to help others as it has helped me.”

For more information

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