

Healthcare Inequalities Innovation Fund Project Summary and Outcomes

Health Justice Partnership: Interim Evaluation Report

Project description:

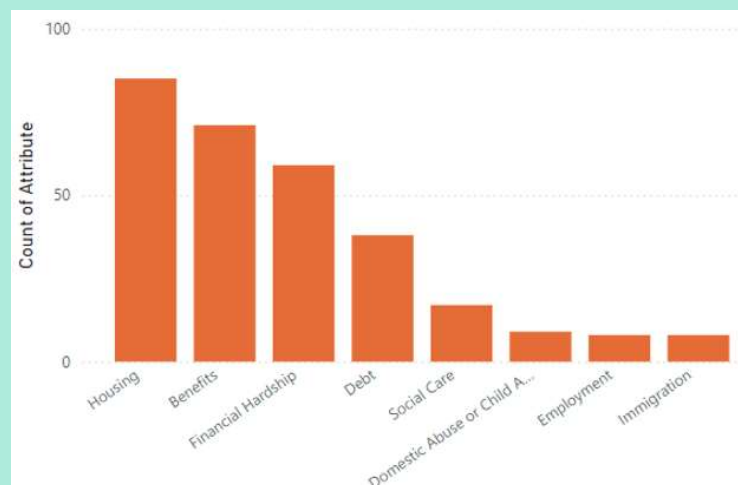
The Health Justice Partnership is a collaboration between health services (e.g. GP practices, hospitals) and organisations specialising in welfare rights. The aim is to support health and maximise recovery by tackling social and financial issues that are harmful to physical and mental health and wellbeing.



The lead organisation, Central England Law Centre, proposed to develop a health justice partnership approach, starting in a PCN in a deprived area of Coventry, then taking the learning from that project to develop further partnerships in Coventry and North Warwickshire. The aims were to improve health outcomes for the relevant patients and reduce demands on GPs for non-clinical issues. The initial partnership was established with Navigation 1 PCN and since extended to working with Skyward PCN.

Project Delivery:

Most issues dealt with by the HJP relate to housing, benefits or financial hardship



Most patients supported by the HJP are from core20 areas (the poorest areas) and other vulnerable groups such as homeless people, migrants and refugees.

Interpreters were required for around a quarter of all referrals

The programme supports people from a range of ethnicities, reflecting the population of Coventry

There were many cases of complex needs where patients had mental health issues, substance misuse or a history of violence

Project Results:

- Homelessness was ended or prevented for 4 patients
- 6 patients supported to gain limited capacity for work related activities status saving approximately 48 GP appointments annually as patients no longer require sick notes
- 37% of patients surveyed said visits to their GP had decreased since support from HJP
- 73% of patients surveyed have not gone back to GP regarding social welfare issues since HJP intervention
- 94.7% of patients surveyed advised that the HJP support had a positive impact on their physical or mental health
- Total predicted income gains for Coventry residents are currently at £620,000 per annum
- More data is being gathered to understand the ongoing impact on the demand for healthcare services

Next steps:

Central England Law Centre are planning on developing a third health justice partnership with a primary care network in Nuneaton & Bedworth.

They are working with Skyward PCN to find further evidence of the benefits of the HJP support and are also developing recommendations for future activity to maximise the effective of this partnership approach

Learning: lessons were learnt in the following areas-

- Project expectations and set-up
- Processes for identifying patients with issues that can best be supported by the HJP
- Importance of partnership approach and appropriate data collection and sharing
- Key areas of work that can have significant impact for patients