

## Eugene Jones South Health NHS FT

### Speakers

Eugene Jones

#### **Eugene Jones** 00:15

We've got over 100 plus social workers in our trust at the moment. But we are looking at how we can strengthen and use their expertise to better effect within the organisation to essentially inform and progress, better clinical care, better care outcomes for people, and more personalised practice, and use the expertise of social workers to fully integrate and support our MDT multidisciplinary team working. In terms of social workers, what I feel they bring in support of the multidisciplinary team is a focus very much on holistic care. So and also not focusing on deficits, but rather on strengths. So an opportunity to look at assets, people's skills, knowledge, and service users expertise, rather than the areas that they need help and support with, to build upon those assets to look at things from a truly holistic family community orientated approach, something that will support our doctors and nurses. But looking at things through a holistic lens of community and assets, family and integration, jobs and opportunities, through that lens. What we need to look at is more of a strategic longer term view. And in terms of social workers, they are the answer to providing more systemic sustainable provision, moving out of acute and crisis, but rather into prevention, into recovery into those areas of longer term impacts that we know will improve people's life course, and health and social care outcomes. So we recognise in the trust that social workers do need support, and we need to understand and communicate across the organisation unique offer that they can provide, as part of the multidisciplinary team. This is part of an overall transformation programme around developing better mental health offer within our communities for the people that we serve. I think in terms of the multidisciplinary team, there's an acknowledgement and an awareness that we need to have a multifaceted approach to support people with complex mental health conditions and presentations. There isn't necessarily a prescription for everything. There's not a therapy for everything. But what we can do is we can provide an holistic approach, which includes drawing upon people's assets, family, friends, community, to enable people to actually have better mental health to continue on their journey of recovery. And to support people in a way that allows them to see be more independent, to take on more control of their own mental health to understand what, what helps and what doesn't help in terms of their particular condition, and how we can enable them to take that level of control something that social workers in their skill set are very accustomed and very skilled in doing, enabling people to make choices and to support themselves in their journey of recovery with us, our teams working alongside them. So in terms of the evidence base for social work, and I think what comes alongside that is the the opportunity for greater independence and personalisation. We

know that through learning disability services, so that's been something which social workers have been very much part of over a generation over the last 10 to 15 years, perhaps longer. And we know that the outcomes for people with learning disabilities their opportunity to integrate to become part of the community have been significantly increased as a result of that. There still is stigma within mental health. People with mental health conditions are still stigmatised and there is an opportunity through greater integration, greater opportunities and support within communities to enable people with mental health conditions to integrate fully to recover fully, and to make use of all of the community resources available to everyone.