Introduction

- To pilot an evidenced based supported employment approach - IPS for veterans who attend Veterans First Point in the City of Edinburgh and The Lothian’s led by an Occupational Therapist (OT).

Objectives

- Provide an in-house employment service for veterans experiencing mental health difficulties.
- Create a fully integrated mental health service and vocational rehabilitation (VR) service.
- Use Occupational Therapy assessment, evaluation and specialist vocational rehabilitation skills.

Recommendations

- Explore other funding streams to sustain IPS service.
- Continue with IPS service led by OT due to professions unique understanding of relationship between occupation and health.

Making the Case for IPS

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<th>IPS</th>
<th>Traditional Vocational Rehabilitation</th>
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<td>58% of people receiving these services are employed in competitive jobs in their local communities</td>
<td>Only 21% of people receiving these services find competitive jobs in the community</td>
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IPS Practice & Principles

IPS supported employment helps people with mental health difficulties work in competitive employment of their choosing. These are the eight practice principles:

- Competitive Employment
- No Exclusion
- Individual Preferences
- Job Search
- Rapid Integration of ES and MH
- Support Time Unlimited
- Benefits Advice
- Job Development

OT core skills and IPS

- OT specialist assessment, intervention and evaluation = career profile, individualised preferences, support and job development.
- Specialist mental health and VR knowledge = effective employment plans and relationships.
- OT clinical input = full integration into the MDT.
- Job retention and AHP fit note = follow along support.

References