Mapping Vocational Rehabilitation Services for people with Long Term Neurological Conditions

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FUNDING

£191,690

RESEARCH QUESTION

The aims of this study are to describe currently available specialist vocational rehabilitation services in England. In addition, we will investigate 'what works' in vocational rehabilitation, and identify barriers and facilitators to establishing successful vocational rehabilitation services.

THE TEAM

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DESIGN

National survey with embedded case studies of a purposive sample of vocational rehabilitation providers.

ABOUT THE STUDY

Quality requirement 6 of the National Service Framework for long term neurological conditions (LTNC) highlights the need for services that enable people with LTNC to enter work, education or vocational training, remain in or return to their existing job or withdraw from work at an appropriate time. These services are known as vocational rehabilitation (VR) services. The provision of vocational rehabilitation services for people with LTNC in the UK is currently patchy and services are poorly defined. Some are provided by existing NHS rehabilitation services, some are linked to Job Centre Plus and others operate within the private or voluntary sector.

The purpose of this study is to identify and describe vocational rehabilitation services currently available to people with LTNC in England and consider the extent to which they fit published recommendations. With the help of an expert panel (including people who provide and use VR services), we will develop a questionnaire to identify vocational rehabilitation services and explore current practice. Then in a selection of sites identified in the survey, we will use in depth interviews to explore barriers and facilitators to VR services for people with LTNC and determine the extent to which these meet the needs of the population served.