

Social Work Online Team Training (SWOTT) toolkit:

FACILITATOR NOTES -

MANDY

Data (,) Power & Social Work

THE ROLE OF THE FACILITATORS IS:

- To encourage the social workers to share their thoughts about the case study.
- To facilitate discussion to identify the opportunities and challenges of this scenario.
- Discuss data as evidence and its utility.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR FACILITATORS TO ASK THE GROUP:

Question: Before getting more information, how could data on the area Mandy used to live and the area around her new accommodation be used to identify potential structural factors that may be contributing to her decline in mood? Can you find any examples using the MOG App? How could you use this data in discussions about what might be helpful?

Answer: One notable difference between Mandy's old address in Meersbrook and her new address in Nether Edge is that in Nether Edge there is less access to active green space. Mandy may have benefitted from the greater access to green space in Meersbrook. This is something that could be discussed with Mandy and it might be possible to identify some support to improve her access to parks and outdoor spaces in Nether Edge or travel to the open spaces in Meersbrook if she wants it.

Question: What changes have happened in social care resourcing in the recent past, and could Mandy's situation be reflective of a larger problem in the social care system and availability of services? What kind of data would you need to explore these questions, and how could you advocate for people in Mandy's position using it?

Answer: There may have been a similar reduction in spending on support-focused, universal services like community cafes or gardening clubs that are often run as small projects by charities, as there has been in children's services. Data may be available from the local authority spending returns about how adult social care budgets are being spent, and it may be effective to advocate that reversing cuts to these kinds of support can help prevent peoples' difficulties managing their mental health from escalating.

Question: How do socioeconomic inequalities shape people's access to things that allow them to maintain their wellbeing and independence? Can you identify which factors in your neighbourhood or wider community support your wellbeing?

Answer: People may not even realise what parts of their local environment might subtly shape their outcomes. Even simple things, like walking distance access to supermarkets or pharmacies could help people maintain their independence and dignity.



Question: How could this kind of data be used in practice and leadership to inform better preventative support and planning?

It may be possible to audit the accessibility to green space in different supported living accommodations across the local authority, and to identify whether peoples' access is unfairly restricted based on whether they come from a poor or affluent community. This information could be used to set a target to ensure a minimum amount of access to active outdoor space for people moving into supported accommodation, in order to improve their independence and wellbeing.