Exploring community healthcare staff experiences of current screening and treatment practices for malnutrition – Baseline survey results from the Implementing Nutrition Screening in Community Care for Older People (INSCCOPe) process evaluation project.

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Aims
• Evaluate implementation of a new procedure and associated training for screening and treatment of malnutrition, developed specifically for community settings.
• Inform further development and rollout across Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Procedure and training
Procedure:
Adapts existing policy with respect to screening and treatment of malnutrition for community settings.

• Patients at medium or high risk of malnutrition (‘MUST’ score of 1 or more) require monthly re-screening and follow up; patients at low risk now re-screened annually, unless there is a significant change in health status.
• Provision of malnutrition information resource sheets to medium and high-risk patients now a mandatory activity.
• Electronic patient records system (RiO) now includes facility for malnutrition screening and care planning information.
• Emphasises the responsibility of staff at all roles and grades for malnutrition screening and delivery of appropriate treatment.

Training:
Staff will be provided with a one-hour session delivered by a dietitian.

Methods
Participants:
• Nursing and allied health professionals (AHPs) working within Integrated Community (ICTs) and Older People’s Mental Health Teams (n=73)

Data collection (at all observation points):
• 23-item questionnaire (NoMad) (completed by all participants)
• Semi-structured telephone interview exploring survey responses (completed by a sub-sample of respondents)

Observation points:
• T0 (baseline – prior to implementation of the training; findings reported in this poster)
• T1 (2 months following implementation of the training)
• T2 (8 months following implementation of the training)

Data analysis:
• Descriptive statistical reporting of questionnaire results.
• Deductive thematic analysis of interview data, informed by Normalization Process Theory (May & Finch, 2007)

Baseline (T0) results

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<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>Responses (n=73 participants)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff see screening and treatment of malnutrition as worthwhile</td>
<td>91% strongly/-agreed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening and treatment of malnutrition is a legitimate part of my role</td>
<td>95% strongly/-agreed</td>
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<tr>
<td>I will continue to support screening and treatment of malnutrition</td>
<td>97% strongly/-agreed</td>
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<tr>
<td>There are key people who drive screening and treatment of malnutrition forward and get others involved</td>
<td>59% ambivalent (44%) or strongly/disagreed (15%)</td>
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<td>Work is assigned to those with skills appropriate to screening and treatment of malnutrition</td>
<td>66% ambivalent (46%) or strongly/disagreed (20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sufficient training is provided to enable staff to implement screening and treatment of malnutrition</td>
<td>63% strongly/disagreed (40%) or were ambivalent (23%)</td>
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<td>Sufficient resources are available to support screening and treatment of malnutrition</td>
<td>59% ambivalent (40%) or strongly/disagreed (19%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management adequately supports screening and treatment for malnutrition</td>
<td>45% ambivalent (34%) or strongly/disagreed (11%)</td>
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Next steps
• Second round (T1) of questionnaires/interviews to explore impact of implementation and training.
• Action T1 findings to develop implementation of the training.
• Explore development of e-learning resources, and nutrition champions to aid implementation.
• Third round (T2) of questionnaires/interviews to explore impact of procedure development, and organisational recommendations.
• Evaluate programme; if successful, roll out across Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.

References:

Email: mbracher@bournemouth.ac.uk
Web: https://research.bournemouth.ac.uk/project/insccope-implementing-nutrition-screening-in-community-care-for-older-people/