A gendered analysis of our caseload

FULFILLING LIVES
South East Partnership

Contents

1. Perceived Need

Outcome Star Data

The Outcome Star is an overall measure used to gauge progress across a number of items over time. The star is completed in a client-led way, and includes items on things like living skills, health, substance use and accommodation. The outcome star measure is taken every quarter, as a way to assess progress for clients on the project. As table one indicates, when averaged, the majority of items from this scale do not show notable gender differences when an average score for males and females is created.

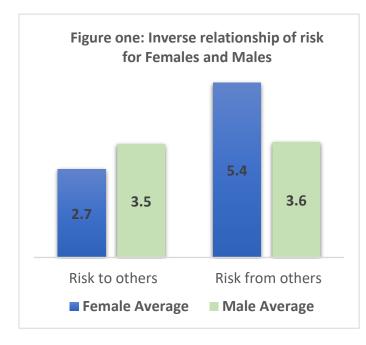| Table one: Outcome star average scores by gender	Female average	Male average	Overall average
Motivation / taking responsibility	3.7	3.7	3.7
Self-care living skills	3.7	3.9	3.8
Managing money & personal admin	3.4	3.9	3.6
Social networks & relationships	3.1	3.5	3.3
Substance use	3.5	3.6	3.6
Physical Health	3.6	4.0	3.8
Mental wellbeing	3.2	3.3	3.2
Meaningful use of time	3.1	3.3	3.2
Managing tenancy & accommodation	3.5	3.7	3.6
Offending	5.0	4.4	4.8

However, some differences are observed. On the item 'Managing money and personal admin' males in the group generally appeared to do better than women (women=3.4, men=3.9). Although both are within the score which indicates 'I don't want these money problems', the men in the client group are closer to the next step on the star, which is 'I will go along with help if my keyworker sorts it out for me'.

Another notable exception is offending, where women score better than men (women=5.0, men=4.4). This difference is represented by men scoring the equivalent of a more abstract 'I want to change, it's not worth living like this', whereas women on average were on the more concrete 'I would like help to sort out issues with the courts/police/probation'.

NDT Data

The NDT score is measured by a client's specialist worker, and is indicative of the levels of chaos the client is experiencing at that point in time. The NDT score is a measure used when decided on nominations into the project, and is also recorded quarterly. As table two indicates, similar to the outcome star data, the majority of items on this scale are not notably affected by gender, with most items being within 0.3 points of one another (see table two).

Table Two: NDT average scores by gender	**Female Average**	**Male Average**	**Overall Average**
Engagement	2.4	2.4	2.4
Intentional Self-Harm	2.0	1.7	1.9
Unintentional self-harm	2.7	2.5	2.6
Risk to others	2.7	3.5	3.1
Risk from others	5.4	3.6	4.6
Staff and anxiety	2.8	2.8	2.8
Social Effectiveness	2.0	2.2	2.1
Alcohol/drug abuse	2.9	2.9	2.9
Impulse control	2.0	2.3	2.1
Housing	2.6	2.6	2.6

Figure one: Inverse relationship of risk for Females and Males

One exception to this finding was in looking at the risk in an individual's life, both in terms of the amount of risk a client poses to others, and the amount of risk posed from others. Here we men posing more risk to others than women (women=2.7, Men=3.5), and women having higher risk from others than men (women= 5.4, men=3.6). In risk to others, this is the difference between women being engaging in anti-social behaviour, and men more likely to be a risk to property or a minor risk to other people. There is a larger gap in risk from others, which sees women at the level of abuse or exploitation from others being likely, and only minor concerns for this kind of behaviour for men.

Accounting for progress

It is important to note that the gendered analysis is calculated through recording an overall average score per client per quarter. Whilst this gives us a good general overview, it does not account for potential progress a client might make throughout their journey with Fulfilling lives. In recognition of this, the following accounts for these changes (See appendix one for more detail)[1].
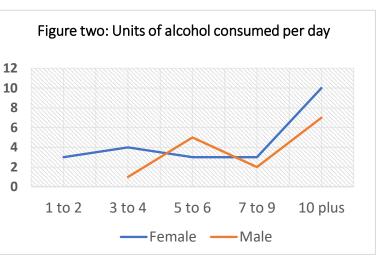
o   Generally, men experienced more positive change than women in terms of their total NDT (women= 6.7, Men=9.5) and Outcome star scores (women=0.2, men=0.6)
o   Through working with Fulfilling Lives, the items 'risk to others' and 'risk from others' decrease for both males and females. Risk to others decreased most for females (D=1.0), and risk from others decreased the most for males (D=2.5).

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[1] Based on current clients from the quarter January to March, 2018

- o Men improved notably more than women on the offending item of the Outcome Star (women=0.5, men=1.6), although they generally scored poorer on this measure.
- o Women improved more than men on the social networks and relationships measure of the Outcome Star (women=0.7, men=0.1)

2. Recorded behaviours

According to Outcome Star and NDT data, substance misuse is scored similarly between males and females. Recorded service use provides further context to this finding. Women tend to drink more units per day than men (see figure two), and drink more frequently than men, with 13 female clients recorded as saying they drink every single day, compared to just 4 males. More men than women were currently injecting drugs (women=52%, men=68%), but more women were more likely to be taking an opiate substitute (women=62%, men= 35%).

Figure two: Units of alcohol consumed per day

Criminal justice is an area than men on the caseload seemed to struggle with more than women. Indeed, men were more slightly likely to be convicted of an offence than women (women= 82% convicted, men= 89%), and more likely to have been cautioned (women=82% cautioned, men=94%). However, when women did offend, they did so more frequently than men, with 8 women having more than 15 offences, compared to 5 men with a similar number.
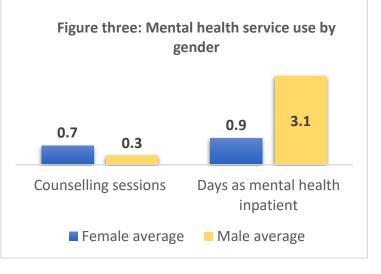
Although almost all clients were identified as needing mental health support from the start of their time with Fulfilling Lives (women= 97%, men=100%) , Women were more likely than men to have a mental health diagnosis (women=89% diagnosed, men=72%). About the same number of men and women reported having a physical health problem (women=80%, men=70%)

3. Service use

Specialist workers record against a number of service use items every quarter, so that Fulfilling Lives can track which services are being used most. Items include physical health, mental health, drug and alcohol services and housing. These are useful because it's possible to see if equal need is resulting in equal service use.

Almost all items relating to criminal justice were the same between males and females, despite their differences on the outcome star measure. An exception to this was 'nights in prison' with females receiving an average of 5 nights per quarter in jail, compared to a much larger average of 11.6 nights for males. Females received more support for drug and alcohol issues, despite showing no

Figure three: Mental health service use by gender

Counselling sessions — Female average: 0.7, Male average: 0.3
Days as mental health inpatient — Female average: 0.9, Male average: 3.1

■ Female average   ■ Male average

elevated need in this area. Females received more contacts with drug and alcohol services (women=6.2, men=4.1), and spent more time in detox than men (women=1.0 weeks, men=0.2 weeks).

Despite comparable need, patterns of service use in mental health look different for Females and Males. Women spent more time in counselling than men (women=0.7 sessions, men=0.3 sessions), and spent notably less time as a mental health inpatient each quarter (women=0.9 days, men= 3.1 days) (see figure three). This could tell us something about the gendered nature of reactive verses proactive mental health care.

4. Learning

It appears that males and females with multiple and complex needs locally have a generally similar experience across many key areas. Where differences are observed, it is important to keep an open mind about where they might be generated from. Any observation of behaviours are the result of interpretations – interpretations on the part of specialist workers, of other professionals and of clients themselves. Interpretations can easily be influenced (intentionally or otherwise) by gendered expectations of action. With that in mind, the tentatively data seems to suggest that:

o Males on the caseload seem to face issues with criminal justice more frequently than females on the caseload. This was suggested through perceived need, recorded behaviours and service use. However, when females were offending, they typically had a larger number of offenses recorded than males.

o Perhaps relatedly, an inverse relationship was found between risk to others and risk from others, on the NDT measure. Women were more likely to be at risk from others, and men more likely to be a risk. This could be analysed in terms of types of offences committed, and implications for the types of support Fulfilling Lives might offer.

o Although the perceived need for mental health support did not indicate particularly gendered patterns, recorded behaviour and service use did. Women were more likely to receive formal

support in the form of diagnoses and counselling sessions. Perhaps as a result of this, men's interactions with mental health was typically unplanned, through being admitted as a mental health inpatient.

o Perceived need also indicated that the amount of support needed for males and females in terms of drug and alcohol use was comparable. Here too, recorded behaviour and service use indicate that women are receiving more planned support. Women were more likely to be prescribed for their opiate addictions, receive face-to-face support appointments, and spend more time in detox than men.

The data seems to suggest that despite often very similar perceived need for support, women are accessing services more frequently across a number of areas. This could be for a wide range of reasons – perhaps levels of engagement, preferences, or barriers inherent to the way services are set up. Further research is needed to see if any of the issues identified here are systemic, and if so, to look at what can be done to remove barriers to access for men with MCN, across a number of areas.

Appendix one

NDT Analysis

NDT FEMALE	Engagement	Intentional Self-Harm	Unintentional self-harm	Risk to others	Risk from others	Stress and anxiety	Social Effectiveness	Alcohol/drug abuse	Impulse control	Housing	Total score
Initial	3.1	2.4	3.3	3.8	6.3	3.3	2.4	3.4	2.8	3.1	33.9
Latest	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.8	5.4	2.9	1.9	2.8	2.0	2.2	27.2
Difference	-0.8	-0.2	-0.7	-1	-0.9	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-6.7

NDT MALE	Engagement	Intentional Self-Harm	Unintentional self-harm	Risk to others	Risk from others	Staff and anxiety	Social Effectiveness	Alcohol/drug abuse	Impulse control	Housing	Total score
Initial	3.2	2.2	3.2	5.3	5.3	3.4	2.5	3.7	3.4	3.0	35.2
Latest	2.5	1.8	2.3	4.0	2.8	3.2	1.9	2.7	2.5	2.3	25.7
Difference	-0.7	-0.4	-0.9	-1.3	-2.5	-0.2	-0.6	-1	-0.9	-0.7	-9.5

OS Analysis

OS FEMALE	Motivation /taking responsibility	Self-care skills	Managing money & admin	Social networks & relationship	Substance use	Physical Health	Mental wellbeing	Meaningful use of time	Managing tenancy & accommodation	Offending	Totals
Initial	3.1	3.4	3.1	2.5	3.0	3.2	2.8	2.6	3.1	4.3	3.1
Latest	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.5	3.0	2.8	3.1	4.8	3.3
Diff	0.2	0	0.1	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0	0.5	0.2

OS MALE	Motivation/ taking responsibility	Self care skills	Managing money & admin	Social networks & relationships	Substance use	Physical Health	Mental wellbeing	Meaningful use of time	Managing tenancy & accommodation	Offending	Totals
Initial	3.0	3.3	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.3	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.0
Latest	3.3	3.7	3.8	3.0	3.4	3.9	3.1	3.3	3.7	4.8	3.6
Diff	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.6	0.6