

Email from Dr Helen Miles (Centerpoint) to Anna D'Agostino (Healthwatch Lambeth)

Thu 20.11.25

Dear Anna,

Thank you so much for sending this over. It makes for a depressing but not totally unsurprising read.

I was working in Dual Diagnosis in the late 90s / early 00s and was involved in both clinical and research work at the Maudsley on this area – including a large research trial that was supposed to help create integrated care pathways in SLAM – see the following papers:

- Miles, H., Johnson, S., Amponsah-Afuwape, S., Finch, E., Leese, M. & Thornicroft, G. (2003). Characteristics of subgroups of individuals with a psychotic illness & co morbid substance use disorder. *Psychiatric Services*, 54: 554-561.
- Afuwape, S., Johnson, S. & Miles, H. (2006). Ethnic Differences among a community cohort of individuals with dual diagnosis. *Journal of Mental Health*, 15:1-17.
- Johnson, S., Thornicroft, G., Afuwape, S., Leese, M., White, I., Hughes, E., Wanigarante, S., Miles, H. & Craig, T. (2007). Effects of training community staff in interventions for substance misuse in dual diagnosis psychotic patients (COMO study): Cluster randomized trial. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 191: 451-452.

It is very sad to hear from service users directly that really nothing has changed in SLAM. In Lambeth Emotional Well-being Service (LEWS) within the youth homeless pathway, we are trying to ensure access to all young people that present (whether with MH or substance use issues or both) and are lucky that outside the NHS, we can be more flexible with our care pathways. Your paper is a timely reminder just why this is so important.

Warmest best wishes,

Dr Helen Miles

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