

Report to Acquired Brain Injury Strategy Group

11th July 2006

Acquired Brain Injury Services Development of Awareness Training

The Brain Injury Service has been delivering awareness training for a number of years, however with the development of the new psychology posts within health and social work there was scope to enhance and formalise the existing training. With input from all the partner agencies this gave an opportunity to augment the already effective partnership working with health, local authorities and other local agencies in keeping with the development of Community Health Partnerships.

A draft training session was written by the Assistant Clinical Psychologist from the Brain Injury Team and the Specialist Trainee Clinical Psychologist from the Clinical Psychology Department at Dumbarton Joint Hospital. The aim was to provide an overview of Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), including how it is acquired and the impact and consequences for individuals and those around them. Trainees were given practical advice on effective working with individuals with ABI.

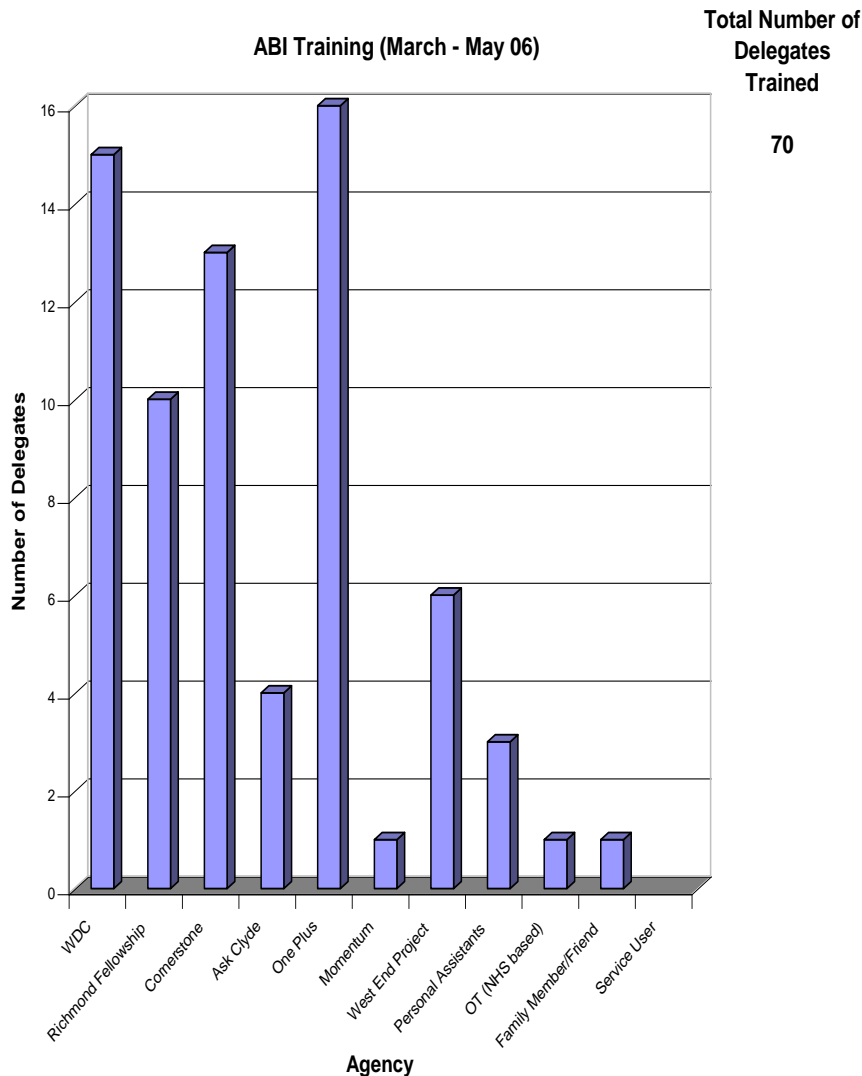
The session was piloted between the 21st March - 21st April 06 and was delivered as a joint venture between the West Dunbartonshire Council and the Department of Clinical Psychology at Dumbarton Joint Hospital. In line with integrated partnership working as recommended by the White Paper, *Partnership for Care* and our Extended Local Partnership Agreement.

Staff from four care providers were invited to attend the pilot session; the West End Project, Cornerstone, One Plus Care Services and the Richmond Fellowship. These organisations were chosen as they frequently use the West Dunbartonshire Brain Injury service and by developing their awareness, workers would increase their understanding and improve the potential for future partnership working.

The key outcomes of the training were to provide staff members with a broad overview of issues surrounding ABI and to establish a basic level of understanding to be developed through future training and joint working.

Currently four training sessions have been provided to seventy members of staff from the identified Care Providers, each of whom completed training Evaluation forms following each session. The evaluation demonstrated trainees had found the training extremely useful and were very positive

about their training experience. They also believed the information they received could be integrated into their existing work practice and assist them to provide more effective care for individuals with ABI. However some trainees suggested that training was too brief and further training opportunities on ABI were required.



A training needs analysis form to determine the focus for future training was distributed to local care providers whose staff frequently work with individuals with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). The results from the survey highlighted there is a poor understanding of acquired brain injury. Requests were also received for further training on a range of topics including the causes and consequences of ABI, challenging behaviour associated with ABI and practical advice for daily working with individuals with ABI.

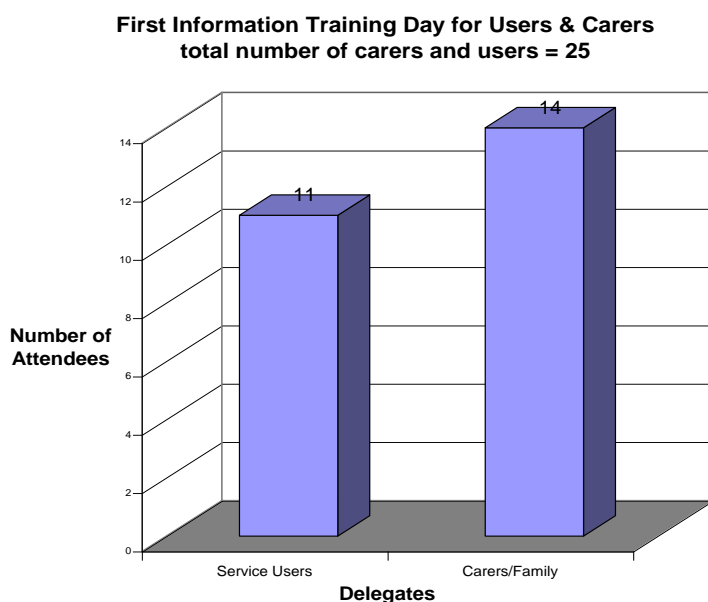
A large number of trainees highlighted the need for future joint working and training with the Brain Injury Team so that they could begin focusing on

specific clients. They suggested that this will provide an opportunity for all care providers to work together and develop joint working to ensure consistent care strategies, particularly in relation to clients who display challenging behaviour.

A typical quote reads:

Follow up training is required *"where individuals could be discussed (with consent) with all agencies involved. I am aware that this is being arranged but feel that it is important to reiterate the benefits of joint working/training for individuals with ABI and their carers"*

Further training sessions have been organised, including further training sessions for individuals with ABI, their family, carers and friends. These sessions will provide much needed education on ABI to those with a brain injury and those around them. It is hoped that this may be the beginning of a support network for individuals in West Dunbartonshire with ABI and their carers.



By using the feedback from all the training evaluation forms, it has been suggested that future training will focus on joint working between care providers focusing on specific clients known to the West Dunbartonshire Brain Injury Team. This will optimise the momentum gained through the initial sessions to build effective joint partnership working.