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Population Health

title	Implementation of the JOBS Programme in Ireland
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INTRODUCTION

This paper reports on the implementation and evaluation of the JOBS programme in Ireland. The JOBS programme is designed as a training intervention to promote re-employment and improve mental health among unemployed people. This intervention was adopted as the Winning New Jobs (WNJ) and implemented on a pilot basis in the border region of the Republic and Northern Ireland in collaboration with regional training and employment and health agencies.

METHODOLOGY

Programme participants were unemployed people recruited from local training and employment offices and health agencies. An evaluation of the process of implementation and the programme impact was conducted in order to determine the feasibility and effectiveness of the JOBS programme in an Irish context. Employing a quasi-experimental design, data were collected from 210 unemployed people in the WNJ intervention group, of which 44 were mental health service users, and from 192 unemployed people in a comparison group, prior to the training intervention and at two weeks, four months and 12 months post intervention.

RESULTS

The findings from the pilot implementation indicate that the programme was well received by both participants and trainers, and lead to improved psychological and reemployment outcomes for the intervention group, lasting up to 12 months post intervention.

CONCLUSIONS

This paper reflects on the implementation issues that arose in adapting an international evidence-based programme to the local setting and considers the implications of the evaluation findings for the roll out of the programme on a larger scale.

PRESENTATION

As a Symposium presentation by Barry, M.M. Price, R.H, Vuori, J. and Blonk, R.W.B. on Implementing the JOBS Programme in Finland, Ireland and the Netherlands, at "Work, Stress and Health 2006: Making a Difference in the Workplace", Miami Florida: 2-4th March, 2006.

As a Plenary address by Barry, M.M on Implementation essentials and evaluation in mental health promotion, at “Joining Forces Across Europe for Prevention and Promotion in Mental Health”, Barcelona: 13-15th September, 2007.