

Inclusion International Congress, Acapulco

Exclusion from mainstream healthcare - Session # 4 Wednesday

Joanna Owen, UK – findings of an investigation into health inequalities

The UK Disability Rights Commission has recently finished a wide ranging investigation into the physical health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities and/or mental health problems. Joanna will talk about the investigation, its main findings and recommendations.

The evidence uncovered by this investigation builds on existing international evidence showing that people with learning disabilities and/or mental health problems die younger and suffer worse physical health than other citizens. We also found that access to health care for these disabled people can be fraught with barriers and that some health providers are failing to comply with legal duties to 'make adjustments'. People with learning disabilities, health professionals and leading academics collaborated with us on this investigation and developed with us a robust set of recommendations which we believe will lead to a reduction in health inequalities over time.