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What's working to drive forward socially inclusive initiatives in a large mental health trust?

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Adults with mental health problems have been one of the most excluded groups in society. They have the lowest rate of employment in comparison to the other main disabled groups and are often isolated, with little structure to their day (OPDM, 2004). The Social Exclusion Report (OPDM, 2004) has gained significant attention from many NHS mental health trusts and has been a key driver in a range of initiatives across the United Kingdom.

By working on the premise that enhancing occupational performance has a valuable role in ones recovery journey and social inclusion can be an important outcome in ones recovery, occupational therapists working within the field of mental health are ideally placed to lead on, or contribute, to such initiatives.

The following poster will illustrate the range of activities carried out within the South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust to support the development of socially inclusive practice. It shows the importance of underpinning projects with strong values and a solid strategy that is supported by the organisation at all levels.

It will show how occupational therapists have been instrumental in taking the agenda forward and will continue to drive the implementation of a wide range of activities.