

Developing a model of citizenship for application within health and social care contexts: a community-based participatory approach

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Background Citizenship as a concept has often been understood in terms of the duties, rights, obligations, and functions a person has as a member of society. In health and social care policy and practice, the term has broader reach. This study explored what citizenship means to people with recent experience of mental illness, a long-term physical health condition, or involvement with the criminal justice, as well as to people who did not primarily identify as having experienced any of these major life disruptions. The aim was to develop an empirical model of citizenship to be applied within health and social care contexts.

Methods We employed a mixed-methods, community-based participatory research approach, which included conducting ten focus groups (n=77 [A: yes participants]) to generate statement items about the meaning of citizenship, and holding concept-mapping sessions with participants from the stakeholder groups (n=45) to categorise and rate each item in terms of importance and achievement. The number of statement items generated was further [A: please clarify--were the items already reduced before the online survey (after the focus groups statement items were extracted and then reduced from 703 to 110 and then to 58 following the online survey)] reduced after an online survey to ask participants (n=242) to rate items according to their clarity and relevance to the concept of citizenship. Multidimensional scaling and hierarchical cluster analysis were used to develop a five-cluster model of citizenship.

Findings 110 statement items about the meaning of citizenship were generated from the focus groups, and were reduced to 58 following the online survey. We identified five clusters representing the personal meanings of citizenship for participants: building relationships,

autonomy and acceptance, access to services and supports, values and social roles, and civic rights and responsibilities. These clusters informed the development of the empirical model of citizenship to be applied within health and social care policy and practice.

Interpretation This multidimensional model of citizenship provides an empirical framework for policy makers and practitioners to set citizenship-based initiatives that contribute to the recovery and social inclusion of people who have experienced major life disruptions. This model will inform the development of a citizenship tool to facilitate discussions around citizenship.

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Contributors

NC and GM were co-lead researchers, developed the research protocols, collected and analysed the data, and wrote the report.

Declaration of interests

[A: There are no conflicts or competing interests for either author]