Perspectives in Public Health proposed special issue on:

Recovery outside of mental health services: what can public health contribute?"

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Despite continuing investment in statutory mental health services, reliable evidence suggests that most people experiencing what might be construed as mental health problems are never treated by statutory mental health services.

Mental health services across the world are over-stretched due to structural under-funding and rising demand, and some people are systematically denied access to appropriate mental health treatment. Reasons can include fear of compulsory confinement, having insufficient local mental health service provisioning, and lack of personal knoweldge about how to recover. Public health professionals might focus their efforts on the significant number of people who are not being treated by statutory mental health services but who are still experiencing mental health difficulties that impact on their lives.

There are a range of public health initiatives that might help reduce distress for people in this situation, from anti-stigma campaigns through to community-based projects grounded in public arts and environmental activism. These kinds of initiatives can also benefit people experiencing distress through enabling a society that is more focused on enabling wellness than on "curing" disease.

For this Special Issue, we are interested to hear about practice and research that focuses on increasing wellbeing as it relates to mental health, and which is not necesarrily situated in statutory mental health services. We can consider research that covers the entire age-span from childhood through to end-of-life, and which has been conducted anywhere in the world. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Innovative public health practices intended to support mental health recovery or wellbeing, as long as these are available to people not being treated by statutory mental health services
- Empirical studies or theory-driven arguments on how public health practice should respond to serious difficulties such as lengthy waiting lists for mental health treatment
- Studies providing insights into the experiences of people affected by mental health problems but not being treated by statutory mental health services
- Studies providing insights into reasons for service avoidance

Author guidelines and information on article types can be found here: https://bit.ly/304pYrc. If you would like to express an interest, please contact:

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The deadline for submissions is 23 September 2022. Authors should submit via our online submissions system: https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pph. Please contact Natalia at ncamicia@rsph.org.uk for more information.