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Understanding the development and running of Recovery Colleges in England

Submission date
26/07/2021

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
10/08/2021

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
24/11/2026

Condition category
Mental and Behavioural Disorders

[ ] Prospectively registered
[ ] Protocol
[ ] Statistical analysis plan
[ ] Results
[ ] Individual participant data
[X] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Recovery Colleges are a recent approach to supporting people living with mental health problems. They are collaborative, strengths-based, person-centred, inclusive (i.e. available to all) and community-focused. A Recovery College provides support to students (mainly mental health service users but also family members, staff and other stakeholders) through adult education rather than through clinical approaches. This research project aims to investigate how Recovery Colleges can provide the most benefit to people who use mental health services using five scientific studies. This is the first study, which aims to understand and describe Recovery Colleges in England.

Who can participate?
Managers or senior leaders of Recovery Colleges in England, aged over 18 years

What does the study involve?
To describe Recovery Colleges in England, a national survey will be sent to Recovery College managers to investigate what each Recovery College looks like and how it runs. The survey will include a manager-rated assessment of Recovery College fidelity. Once managers have completed the survey, they will then be invited to take part in a 45-minute follow-up interview to explore how their Recovery College worked before and after the pandemic.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Recovery College managers will get the opportunity to have their Recovery College represented in the national survey and findings may help shape future service direction. There are no known risks to participating in this study.

Where is the study run from?
King's College London (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
December 2020 to September 2026.

Who is funding the study?
National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (UK)

Who is the main contact?
Daniel Hayes
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Contact information

Type(s)
Public

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Additional identifiers

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)

211925

Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS)
32791

Protocol serial number
RP-DG-0615-10008

Study information

Scientific Title
Recovery Colleges Characterisation and Testing (RECOLLECT): Understanding the development and running of Recovery Colleges in England using a national survey and follow-up interviews with Recovery College Management

Acronym
RECOLLECT 2

Study objectives
Objectives:
1. To describe Recovery Colleges in England
2. To establish Recovery College costs
3. To establish how the pandemic has affected Recovery Colleges
4. To understand the organisational context and history of Recovery Colleges

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
The research was reviewed by the sponsor (Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust), who confirmed that approval from a research ethics committee was not needed as this is a study of usual practice. Sponsorship number: 118257

Primary study design
Observational

Study design
National survey and qualitative interviews

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Mental health and wellbeing

Interventions
The intervention in question is 'Recovery Colleges'. For the purposes of the project, these are services that meet the following criteria:

1. They focus on supporting personal recovery
2. They aspire to co-production
3. They aspire to adult learning

This study will be describing the running of Recovery Colleges and establishing the costs of Recovery Colleges in England as well as exploring how COVID-19 has influenced Recovery College function. To describe the running of Recovery Colleges and the costs associated with this, the researchers will employ a national survey of Recovery College managers in England at a single timepoint. This survey will also measure Recovery College fidelity. Follow-up qualitative interviews will then be used to examine the impact that COVID-19 has had on Recovery College function.

Intervention Type
Other

Primary outcome(s)
The running of Recovery Colleges and the associated costs, assessed using a national survey of Recovery College managers in England at a single timepoint

Key secondary outcome(s)
There are no secondary outcome measures

Completion date
01/09/2026

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. A Manager/Senior leader at a Recovery College
2. Give informed consent

Participant type(s)
Health professional

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
60

Key exclusion criteria
1. Aged under 18 years
2. Unable to give informed consent
3. Not a Manager/Senior leader

Date of first enrolment
01/08/2021

Date of final enrolment
30/08/2026

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
Kings College London (Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience)
Health Services and Population Research Department
David Goldberg Centre, De Crespigny Park
London
England
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Sponsor information

Organisation
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

ROR
https://ror.org/04ehjk122

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
National Institute for Health Research

Alternative Name(s)
National Institute for Health Research, NIHR Research, NIHRresearch, NIHR - National Institute for Health Research, NIHR (The National Institute for Health and Care Research), NIHR

Funding Body Type

Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location
United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are/will be available upon request from the sponsor Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (research@nottshc.nhs.uk) at the end of the study in 2025. Data will be in an anonymised form for descriptive and exploratory research.

IPD sharing plan summary
Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes