Definitions of social exclusion

Byrne, 2005, p. 81
‘social exclusion’ is an emergent phenomenon that is constituted by the interaction among the life courses of the ensemble of individuals and households who for varying periods of time occupy a separated part of the condition space describing possible life courses, which in part is defined by categorically worse conditions as measured on a multi-dimensional basis. In other words, ‘social exclusion’ is not a label to be applied to particularly ‘socially excluded’ individuals and/or households . . .

Social Exclusion Unit, 1997
‘social exclusion’ is a shorthand for what can happen when individuals or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown . . .

Collins, 2004, p.727
social exclusion is a process, and can be described more comprehensively as a lack of access to four basic social systems: democracy, welfare, the labour market, and the family and community . . . that is, what could be described in terms of the philosopher Rawls, or the social scientist Marshall, as limited or second class citizenship

Parr et al, 2004, p. 405
‘Inclusion’ denotes relations and practices that people with mental health problems perceive to signify their positive involvement in and ‘mattering’ to a local setting . . . By contrast, ‘exclusion’ denotes more negative eventualities that involve rejection, avoidance and distancing from other community members, such that individuals are ‘made different’ through more or less deliberate social actions reinforcing their problematic mental health status . . . The lines between inclusion and exclusion turn out to be quite blurred, particularly in that superficially inclusionary moments cannot be taken as evidence of a deep-seated inclusionary tendency . . .

Estivll, 2003, p. 19
Social exclusion may be understood as an accumulation of confluent processes with successive ruptures arising from the heart of the economy, politics and society, which gradually distances and places persons, groups, communities, territories in a position of inferiority in relation to centres of power, resources and prevailing values

an individual is socially excluded if he or she does not participate in key activities of the society in which he or she lives; . . . the individual is not participating for reasons beyond his/her control; and he/she would like to participate

An individual is socially excluded if (a) he or she is geographically resident in a society but (b) for reasons beyond his or her control, he or she cannot participate in the normal activities of citizens in that society, and (c) he or she would like to participate

Vlemincx & Berghman, 2001, p. 46
. . . a concoction (or blend) of multidimensional mutually reinforcing processes of deprivation, associated with progressive disassociation from social milieu, resulting in the isolation of individuals and groups from the mainstream opportunities society has to offer

Vraken & Geldof, 1992, p. 19; Vraken, 2001, p. 86
Poverty is a complex set of instances of social exclusion that stretches over numerous areas of individual and collective existence, and which results in the poor being separated from the generally accepted living patterns in society and being unable to bridge this gap on their own (Quoted in Dewilde & De Keulenaer, 2003, p. 127)

Sayce, 2001, p. 122
We can conceptualise social exclusion in relation to mental health service users specifically as the interlocking and mutually compounding problems of impairment, discrimination, diminished social role, lack of economic and social participation and disability. Among the factors at play are lack of status, joblessness, lack of opportunity to establish a family, small or non-existent social networks, compounding race or other discriminations, repeated rejection and consequent restriction of hope and expectation . . .

Berman & Phillips, 2000, p. 330
Social exclusion focuses primarily on relational issues: inadequate participation, lack of social integration, and lack of power . . .

Giddens, 1998, p. 104
Exclusion is a series of breaks in the web of belonging that leaves individuals stranded in a ‘social no-man’s land’

Mandanipour et al, 1998, p. 22
Social exclusion is defined as a multi-dimensional process, in which various forms of exclusion are combined: participation in decision making and political processes, access to employment and material resources, and integration into common cultural processes. When combined, they can create acute forms of exclusion that find spatial manifestation in particular neighbourhoods

Walker & Walker, 1997, p. 8
. . . the dynamic process of being shut out, fully or partially, from any of the social, economic, political and cultural systems which determine the social integration of a person in society. Social exclusion may, therefore, be seen as the denial (or non-realisation) of the civil, political and social rights of citizenship

Duffy, 1995
. . . a broader concept than poverty, encompassing not only low material means, but the inability to participate effectively in economic, social, political and cultural life, and, in some characterisations, alienation and distance from mainstream society . . .

Room, 1995
Social exclusion can be described as the process of becoming detached from the moral order and prevailing norms of society

Walker, 1995, p. 103
The term social exclusion . . . derives from the idea of a society as a status hierarchy comprising people bound together by rights and obligations that reflect, and are defined with respect to, a shared moral order. Exclusion is the state of detachment from this moral order and can be brought about by many factors, including limited income

Repper & Perkins, 2003
Social inclusion . . . requires equality of opportunity and participation in the rudimentary and fundamental functions of society. Examples of these functions include access to health care, employment, education, good housing, and ultimately ‘recovery of status and meaning and reduced impact of disability’