

Policy Briefing: Report of the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum - Mental Health Sub-group

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216853/CYP-Mental-Health.pdf

Purpose of document

The Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum was set up by the Government in 2012. It brings together professionals with expertise in children and young people's health and care. The forum was asked by the Secretary of State for Health to come up with a new and better way to improve health and care outcomes for children and young people in Britain. The first annual report of their work was published in July 2012 and has supporting sub-group reports including one on mental health. The mental health report will help local organisations to apply the plans explained in the Government's mental health strategy 'No Health Without Mental Health' for children and young people, in their work.

Summary of contents

The report gives key facts and figures about children and young people's mental health, and also mentions actions that schools and colleges can take to improve mental health within this group. It explains the forum's views on different ways to promote mental health, and gives suggestions to help mental health organisations to deliver each of the six goals mentioned in the mental health strategy.

Summary of outcomes

The report highlights a need for a new plan of action on children and young people's mental health services. It shows that the forum must work together to close the gap in service provision between physical and mental health services, and also to better meet the needs of those with mental health problems. Also, there is a lack of data on poor mental health among children and young people that needs to be addressed.

Summary of recommendations

Key recommendations for future work made by the forum include:

- Promoting mental health and improving mental health and care outcomes.
- Developing a mental health survey of young people, every three years, to improve and compare data on those with and without mental health problems.
- Encouraging resilience and mental health wellbeing.
- Ensuring adequate provision of treatment very early on.
- Providing support and protection for the most vulnerable, and the most disadvantaged groups with the worst outcomes.

Further information and resources

Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum - All Reports

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-experts-set-out-recommendations-to-improve-children-and-young-people-s-health-results>

No Health Without Mental Health

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213761/dh_124058.pdf

Document summarised on behalf of Healthwatch Merton by: N Apprey-Abraham

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