

Policy Briefing: Transforming Mental Health: A Plan of Action for London

Document published by: The King's Fund Date published: September 2014

Original Document:

http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/files/kf/field/field_publication_file/transforming-mental-health-london-kingsfund-sep2014.pdf

Purpose of document

The King's Fund was asked by Chief Executives of The London Mental Health Trust to work together with stakeholders to create a vision for the future of Mental Health for London over the next 5-10 years. This included developing a plan of action for improving mental health which addresses variations in the quality of care and meets the commitments of giving mental health equal priority with physical health. The report has been prepared to show the process and outcomes of their engagement with stakeholders. It is based on a collaborative and integrated approach towards mental health that is relevant to 21st century needs.

Summary of contents

The report evaluates the impact of mental illness in London. It considers the existing provision of services and how far London has progressed. Also, the report gives an overview of the current knowledge and thinking regarding the approaches to providing for mental health needs with reference to research evidence. It describes the priority areas that have been identified supported by quotes from service users and carers. They include public health intervention and prevention programmes; accessible and available care and services in a supportive community; and easy to follow care pathways. The main challenges, and the key stages to putting the priorities and changes into effect are discussed.

Summary of outcomes

Although there is agreement about what the priorities for improving mental health are, there is no collective agreement as to how to go about delivering them between stakeholders. In order to improve mental health services and bring about better integrated care, the report encourages the stakeholders to work towards a shared agenda that brings together key health and social care organisations.

Summary of recommendations

- Collaborative decision making among commissioners along with significant improvement in collective leadership.
- Putting service users, carers and clinicians at the forefront of service provision.
- Making the best use of the experts with the knowledge, skills and experiences in identifying and addressing mental illness.
- Making the most of academic institutions to publish research evidence on mental health more broadly to the public, and to ensure best practice.

Further information and resources - Related documents by The King's Fund

Mental health service transformation

<http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/service-transformation>

<http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2014/09/cultural-change-transforming-mental-health>

Mental Health - The Big Election Questions

<http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/mental-health-rhetoric-reality>

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

Date summarised: 6th February 2015