



CREATING A SHARED VISION FOR MENTAL HEALTH IN TEN YEARS' TIME

Supporting systems to build a locally owned long-term plan

Integrated care boards and partnerships across England are exploring ways of modernising their mental health services. As the current phase of the NHS Long Term Plan comes to an end this year, and systems are gaining greater autonomy from nationally set priorities and plans, local leaders have the opportunity to construct a vision that meets the needs of their communities.

Centre for Mental Health is here to support systems to make evidence-informed decisions about their local priorities for mental health. We can work alongside systems to access national and international evidence to guide their plans and strategies. We can facilitate local engagement to ensure that a wealth of views and voices are heard in the creation of priorities and plans. And we can bring an independent perspective to offer values-led, honest, and impartial advice to system leaders.



OUR EXPERTISE

Centre for Mental Health has significant and evidenced experience of supporting systems, and their predecessor organisations and partnerships, in setting priorities for their mental health services. We have conducted needs assessments, offered strategic support, facilitated deliberations, and offered independent reviews to assist in the development of local plans and strategies.

For example, in Surrey, the Centre supported a strategic review of mental health provision across the spectrum, speaking with cross-systems stakeholders to understand their perspectives and seek common ground to set priorities for improvement. Subsequently, we worked with the six systems in the south east region to analyse their initial integrated care strategies from a mental health perspective and received the following testimony:

The work undertaken by Centre for Mental Health, through Andy Bell, has been invaluable in providing knowledgeable, independent, informed, and expert challenge to a complex area of work, comprising a whole system review of mental health, with resultant comprehensive improvement programme. Andy brought real insight and experience from elsewhere to bear on the diagnostic review, interviewing Board members for their views and contributions. His skill and careful approach, with a lightness of touch and good humour, made everyone he dealt with able to give of their best. As a consequence, we have been able to make progress in a comparatively short space of time, with all partners, those with lived experience and carers benefitting from the work supported by Centre for Mental Health.

Michael Coughlin, Deputy Chief Executive at Surrey County Council

In boroughs across Greater Manchester, we have worked with public health teams to identify communities' priorities for improving wellbeing and preventing mental ill health. Our work included facilitating complex system mapping events with a wide range of participants resulting in a number of local borough reports, for example **Trafford** and **Bolton**.



I'd like to thank you for the brilliant work you've done for us, which has really helped us progress our work on the wider determinants of mental health and has shifted the thinking in several parts of our local system.

Jilla Burgess-Allen, Director of Public Health, Stockport Council, Greater Manchester

We worked with the **West Midlands Combined Authority** to support a Mental Health Commission to explore priorities across the city region for reducing mental health inequalities. We gathered and analysed evidence on topics including mental health in schools, the cost-of-living crisis, race equality, and physical activity.

In Lincolnshire and in the East of England, we presented the key elements of our national vision for mental health, autism and learning disability services in ten years' time, **No Wrong Door**, to leaders from their integrated care systems and their wider partners to inform their strategy deliberations.





WHAT WE CAN OFFER

We offer a range of approaches to help systems to create local strategies to transform their mental health provision. Every system has vastly diverse needs and starting points, and our support will be determined by those.

We can offer one or more of these activities, or similar, depending on what is required locally:

- ⦿ Stakeholder consultation and intelligence-gathering, building up a picture of a wide range of views and priorities in order to identify shared goals, values, and ambitions
- ⦿ Facilitating complex system mapping events and producing local reports to feed into strategic planning processes
- ⦿ Presentations at, or facilitation of, whole system events and engagement sessions, to support system partners in thinking about their aims and aspirations
- ⦿ Evidence reviews, drawing on research in key areas to identify potential solutions and approaches.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For a discussion regarding your local requirements, please contact Jenny Banks, Associate Director of Business Development and Partnerships:

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