

WHAT MAKES A GOOD MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT?

PROCESS



Have a 'champion' in a senior leadership position in a local council

Consider timing and context: coincide with a new local strategy or national policy imperative

Involve local partners and stakeholders from the outset

CONTENT



Highlight the needs of the most disadvantaged groups

Include data from a wide range of sources, including voices of lived experience

Show to what extent needs are being met through current provision

PRESENTATION



Summarise clear and measurable outcomes

Use a modular format which is easy to update and navigate

Use appealing visualisations

Explain the relevance of each topic to mental health

FOLLOW-UP



Continue to communicate with communities that participated in the MHNA

Have a clear process for measuring and monitoring how recommendations are being implemented

Learn and review what has and hasn't worked to improve future MHNAs