

Mental Health Network

2010/11 has been a challenging year for Mental Health Network (MHN) members. The network has been working hard to support members – making sense of the changing political landscape, influencing policy on your behalf, and providing opportunities to come together and share experiences. Below is a snapshot of what we plan to focus on in 2011/12 and some of our work over the past year.

Looking ahead to 2011/12

With the Health and Social Care Bill making its way through Parliament, we will be working hard to ensure the voices of mental health providers are heard. We will be ensuring members have the opportunity to shape policy on choice and “any willing provider” at an early stage. On commissioning, our joint programme of work with the Royal College of GPs (RCGP), Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) offers an important opportunity for providers and clinicians to work together on the future commissioning of services.

Key elements of our work programme over the next 12 months include:

- *Mental health strategy:* Through the Ministerial Oversight Group we will push for support for implementation and will work with members to determine how appropriate outcome measures can be developed. We will also continue with our work on Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP).
- *Mental health commissioning:* With the RCGP, RCPsych and ADASS, we will produce a mental health commissioning framework for GPs.
- *Payment by Results:* Along with the Foundation Trust Network, we will work closely with the Department of Health (DH) on plans to develop a Payment by Results system for mental health services.
- *Diversion:* With the Ministry of Justice expected to confirm its plans for the roll out of diversion services

for offenders in May, we will keep members informed of policy developments and opportunities to develop new services.

- *Recovery:* We will continue our work on recovery with 28 organisations, including six full pilot sites, and will publish a report later this year.
- *Independent sector programme:* We will develop a distinct programme of work to support our for-profit and third sector members.
- *Balancing the debate:* 2011/12 will see a greater media focus on acute inpatient care with the launch of a major Mind campaign. We will continue to encourage a balanced debate about services.
- *Housing and mental health:* We will work with the National Housing Federation to support joint working between mental health and housing providers.
- *Personalisation:* We will continue our work on personalisation and personal health budgets.
- *Public Health England:* We will seek to ensure that public mental health is a key priority for the new public health service.

Our membership year 2010/11

Engaging with the new Government

We have been closely monitoring the implications of the Government's policies for members. We met with Secretary of State Andrew Lansley MP; care services minister Paul Burstow MP; Norman Lamb MP, parliamentary private secretary (PPS) to Nick Clegg MP, Deputy Prime Minister; and Andrew Murrison MP, PPS to

Andrew Lansley. We have also built good relationships with the Labour health team, in particular Emily Thornberry MP, shadow minister for mental health. We also continued to engage with backbench MPs and Lords across all parties and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Mental Health.

In addition, we continued to work closely with civil servants from the DH and other government departments, particularly Jim Easton, NHS national director for improvement and efficiency; David Behan, director general of social care; and Bruce Calderwood, director of mental health.

Briefings and reports

In 2010/11 we published briefings on a range of topics including the mental health strategy; improving the acute pathway; managing money and mental health; and improving services for veterans and adults with autism. We also worked with the King's Fund, Centre for Mental Health and Royal College of Psychiatrists on *Mental health and the productivity challenge*.

Influencing NHS reforms

We ensured our members' views formed a key part of NHS Confederation responses to the health white paper and the new strategy for public health. We also provided opportunities for members to take part in DH-led seminars on choice and "any willing provider".

Future of commissioning

We established the joint commissioning panel with the RCGP, RCPsych and ADASS.

New mental health strategy

Following *A future vision for mental health*, we were heavily involved in the development of the Government's mental health strategy and held a seminar for members to gauge their views. The strategy is testament to our capacity to influence policy on members' behalf.

Mental health and QIPP

Another success for MHN in 2010/11 was securing DH

commitment to a mental health QIPP programme in line with similar initiatives in physical health.

Criminal justice reform

We held regular meetings and members have attended workshops with the Ministry of Justice and DH on the criminal justice and mental health agenda. MHN director Steve Shrubbs remains a member of the National Advisory Group, is a representative on the Criminal Justice Council, and has recently joined the Offender Substance Misuse Board. Through these meetings and consultation with our members, the network has been instrumental in influencing the green paper *Breaking the cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders*.

Implementing recovery

In partnership with the Centre for Mental Health and the National Mental Health Development Unit, we recently launched a two-year 'Implementing Recovery Organisational Change (ImROC)' project that will support 28 NHS mental health organisations in England and two independent providers to implement recovery-orientated services at an organisational level.

Influencing the wider debate

The BBC, *Health Service Journal*, *Community Care* and other regional and local media outlets regularly covered our work. In autumn 2010 we hosted a seminar for the Centre for Social Justice, as part of its review of mental health. We also submitted evidence to Mind's enquiry into acute mental healthcare and will soon attend a panel hearing to give evidence in person.

Events programme

In 2010/11, we held our annual conference, four general network meetings and sessions at the NHS Confederation annual conference. We also held a number of seminars and one-off conferences on early intervention in psychosis, well-being, and an event on the Milwaukee Wrap Around model. We also joined the Centre for Mental Health to deliver an event on supporting people with mental health problems into paid employment.

NHS CONFEDERATION



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