



NHS Benchmarking Network

www.nhsbenchmarking.nhs.uk

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Distribution: CCG Chief Officers in England

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Dear Colleague

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BENCHMARKING 2017

I am writing in my position as Chair of the NHS Benchmarking Network (NHSBN) Mental Health Reference Group to inform you of a national review of community-based mental health services in England. The review is taking place across England and aims to fully understand arrangements for providing community-based mental health care and a range of locally commissioned primary care mental health services. The project has been commissioned by NHS England and we are working in partnership with Health Education England (HEE) to undertake a comprehensive stocktake of community mental health services. The project will collect data from commissioners and providers and will request data from all Clinical Commissioning Groups and mental health Trusts in England. This work will help inform national policy, the implementation and further development of England's mental health workforce strategy following HEE's publication of *Stepping Forward to 2020/21: Mental Health Workforce Plan for England* in July, and will also provide key intelligence for use by commissioners, providers, and STPs to support forward planning.

Community mental health services provide the bedrock for secondary mental health care with over 90% of service users supported in the community setting. Community services will be central to delivery of the targets in the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health and to ensuring that sustainable local services can be maintained. The reduction in mental health beds seen in recent years places increased emphasis on the need to optimise community-based care. NHS England is keen to understand more about new models of primary mental health care as well as the commissioning of vital services from other sectors that contribute to improving community-based mental health care.

The project will aim to collect data from a number of perspectives. We are requesting data from CCGs that will help to quantify:

- mental health support from out of hours primary care services
- locally commissioned primary care mental health services
- primary care mental health prescribing and shared care
- substance misuse support and shared care
- supported housing commissioned for mental health service users
- additional mental health support commissioned from the voluntary sector

Parallel data collections are also taking place with specialist mental health Trusts and Local Authorities to collect data on specialist community mental health care provision. A central purpose of the project is to properly understand the capacity that exists in community services and how this is reflected in our workforce. This will support a renewed national focus on increasing access to psychological therapies for people with severe mental illnesses as recommended by the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health.



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As with all NHS Benchmarking Network projects, all participants will receive detailed project reports and benchmarking tools which will identify your local position within the national range. Reports will be produced at both CCG level and STP level.

I have attached the project's data collection template to this e-mail and also additional logistical information of how to get involved in the work. Data templates should be returned to Jessica Walsh at the NHS Benchmarking Network on Jessica.walsh1@nhs.net. The deadline for data submissions is 30th November 2017 with CCG and STP reports being available around 6-weeks later. The Network will continue to work in partnership with NHS England's national and regional mental health teams throughout this process to support you to understand this important project, to submit returns and to respond to any queries.

I would like to thank you and your organisation for your involvement in this project. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the mental health benchmarking work programme please contact either myself at julian.emms@berkshire.nhs.uk or Stephen Watkins at the Network's support team on s.watkins@nhs.net. Your NHS England regional mental health teams will also be able to pass on queries to us or to the national team.

Yours sincerely

JULIAN EMMS
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Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Chair – NHS Benchmarking Mental Health Reference Group