



NHS Benchmarking Network

www.nhsbenchmarking.nhs.uk

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Distribution: Trust Chief Executives in England

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Dear Colleague

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BENCHMARKING 2017

I am pleased to write with an update on progress with this year's benchmarking programme for mental health providers. We have recently issued first draft reports for our main inpatient and community services projects, these will be followed in coming weeks by additional draft reports on CAMHS, IPS Employment Services, Pharmacy, and Corporate Functions. Additional products later in the year will also include an updated cycle of our Learning Disabilities project and further work on community mental health services.

Our national conference programme is now also finalised with events scheduled on our main projects as follows;

- Mental Health inpatient and community services - 9th November 2017 (St Pauls London)
- CAMHS – 16th November 2017 (Hallam Centre, London)
- Learning Disabilities – 6th March 2018 (Hallam Centre, London)

I am pleased to also write with further details of the second stage of the NHS Benchmarking Network's work programme for 2017/18. I wrote to you earlier in the year to launch this year's benchmarking programme and outlined how we would be working in partnership with NHS England and Health Education England (HEE) to undertake a comprehensive stocktake of community mental health services. 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 Trusts in discussions with commissioners and partners, including STPs to support their 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 Trusts' ability to deliver on the targets in the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health and ensure 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.

The objective of the new phase of work on community care is to enhance the knowledge base and intelligence around community mental health services. This will be a multi-agency project that will also involve Local Authorities, CCGs and Voluntary Organisations to develop a national stocktake of community mental health service provision across both primary and secondary care. Gaining a full understanding of the workforce challenge for community services will be a core element of this work. Participants in the project will receive reports which will allow you to test your community team provision against the rest of the NHS.

The project will aim to collect data from a number of perspectives including;



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- Profile of Trust delivered community services and associated workforce
- The contribution of Social Care to community mental health services
- Additional local services commissioned by CCGs (including enhanced primary care mental health services and the voluntary sector contribution)
- A national stocktake of adult Eating Disorder services which will quantify existing provision levels and help inform plans for future service developments following publication of the updated NICE guideline

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. We are particularly interested in describing the current make-up of the community workforce in terms of disciplinary profile, skill-mix, demography, and competencies. 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.

As with all NHS Benchmarking Network projects, all participants will receive detailed project reports and local benchmarking software tools. These reporting tools will allow a wide range of detailed local comparisons to be produced on all aspects of community mental health services. The project will allow Trusts to submit data at several levels including team specific levels if required. Project reporting will map local data submissions, so if for example you decide to submit data at team level, we promise to also make individual team level reports available in project outputs (along with locality and Trust level reports as required).

As with all previous benchmarking cycles we will also provide regional briefings for Trusts to discuss benchmarking findings and the implications for service delivery, workforce strategies and STP planning. We will continue to work in partnership with NHS England's national and regional mental health teams throughout this process.

I have attached the community project's data collection templates to this e-mail and also summarised project logistical information of how to get involved in the work.

I would like to thank you and your organisation for your involvement as members of the NHS Benchmarking Network and look forward to your continued participation in the next phase of the 2017 work programme. 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.

Yours sincerely

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