

# Mental Health News

## Developing the Mental Health Commissioning Workforce

The Mental Health News e-bulletin is a daily bulletin issued by the Mental Health Improvement Programme (MHIP) containing an item relating to a Mental Health issue, development or outcome in the North West.

The aim is to bring awareness to our stakeholders about service improvement and innovative projects underway in Mental Health across the North West, and to encourage you (the reader) to act as vehicle for ensuring that you or your organisation is engaged with the work where applicable.

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As part of MHIPs work in supporting the development of commissioners we have been involved in a national survey of the regional commissioning workforce; in a [recent news story](#) I mentioned that this survey was looking at the career paths, development needs and skills sets of individuals in these roles.

This survey has now ended and we will be able to report the findings from the North West in late September.

In preparation for these recommendations MHIP has been scoping an outline programme for commissioner development to be provided by a national/regional education/training provider. Whilst there are a number of graduate and diploma level programmes currently, we are aiming to offer a short programme that helps accelerate key knowledge themes and learning for practice which may provide a bridge for participants onto more extensive programmes within regional Universities.

This programme will be aligned to similar initiatives within the Joint Improvement Programme (JIP) for adult health and social care and will be part of a wider portfolio of activity that supports commissioners in extending roles and capability.

The intention is to make wider links across the commissioner development agenda with regional seminar based networks that include mental health and wider health and social care audiences.

The announcement from the tender process will be made in the next week. If you wish to know more about this initiative please contact [Simon.Rippon@northwest.nhs.uk](mailto:Simon.Rippon@northwest.nhs.uk)

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