

Mental Health News

Clinical Pathway Group Update

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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The Mental Health Clinical Pathway Group held its second meeting on 24th September. The event was well attended and was great opportunity for the Group to discuss progress and future plans, with lots of lively discussion!

It was decided that the group needed to agree which areas to focus on initially, to ensure timely, high quality outcomes. Following feedback of work completed since the last meeting, it was felt that physical healthcare for people with severe mental illness should be the group's priority. Currently people with severe mental illness die an average of ten years earlier than the general population, which is an alarming indicator of inequality. In the pathway we are looking at including the management of specific physical health, the management of medicines and side effects, and health promotion. Service user engagement and involvement will also be key.

We discussed the other pathways that had been suggested at the previous CPG meeting; service user transition from early intervention for psychosis (EIP) and early access to services for dementia and alcohol. The CPG agreed to not focus on EIP as services are so new that not many services users have been discharged from them, meaning there is limited evidence for what should happen afterwards. The second pathway looking at early access for alcohol and dementia services is similar to work being done by the Department of Health and the CPG is keen to avoid duplication, so will not look at this at present. Further areas of work by the group will be reconsidered at a later date.

We recently attended a national meeting of representatives from the mental health clinical pathway groups at other SHAs. There is a lot of enthusiasm and drive across the country to improve mental health services and inequality, and we feel our work will complement other regions' pathways well.

For further information please contact either maria.breslin@cwp.nhs.uk or jo.strauss@cwp.nhs.uk

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