

Mental Health News

New declaration enshrines acute care quality care for all

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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In a first for the UK, mental health patient groups, NHS service providers and staff groups came together yesterday (12th November) to launch the first national declaration for people with a mental health crisis. It was launched at the Mental Health Network Annual Conference in Birmingham.

This *Acute Declaration* recognises that improving acute mental health services (both community and inpatients) needs to remain a key national priority. It aims to build on the recognised progress which has been made in recent years. The declaration sets out that people who are acutely ill should receive safe high quality care in a comfortable environment. The organisations will work together to achieve this by focusing on integrating people back into their everyday lives while also setting out the need to promote a more positive image of mental illness. Key to the success of the declaration will be the development of an acute specialist workforce with the right skills and attitudes and a culture of enquiry and service improvement based on evidence and regular service user and carer feedback.

The declaration covers five areas

- Tackling stigma
- Promote recovery and inclusion
- Commissioning and providing better care
- Support the development of specialist workforce
- Promote research and development

The declaration is supported by Mind, the National Patient Safety Agency, Star Wards, Rethink, the Royal College of Nursing, Royal College of Psychiatrists, Royal College of GPs, The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, The British Psychological Society, College of Occupational Therapists, the National Mental Health Development Unit and the Mental Health Network.

Following this initial launch, regional events will be organised to develop local action plans. The North West has been asked to hold the first such event to help develop a template for similar events across the country.

For more information, including downloading the Acute Declaration:

<http://www.acutecareprogramme.org.uk/>

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