

Mental Health News

Releasing time to care – the new productive mental health project

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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Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) are involved in rolling out a new project *releasing time to care*. The Institute for Innovation and Improvement has been working with nurses and therapist to develop ways to increase the amount of direct one to one care given to patients in mental health wards and in the community. Around 80% of NHS trusts have now signed up to the programme.

The project started within CWP in January 2009; this initially involved 6 showcase areas which included one community mental health team in Crewe, 2 Adult acute inpatient wards, 2 Learning disability treatment & assessment units and a young people's inpatient unit. The *releasing time to care* project is the start of a new approach to service improvement and will be rolled out trust wide to all inpatient and community areas within CWP.

The areas concentrate initially on the 3 core modules:

1. *Knowing how we are doing* – this module looks at how the area is performing currently and provides a base line for further improvement. Staff can measure, track and record performance.
2. *Patient status at a glance* – this module looks at visual management, showing important vital patient information. The aim is to make patient information clearer and easily understandable.
3. *Well organised ward* – this module is an approach to simplify the workplace and reduce waste by having everything in the right place at the right time.

There are 11 modules in total, which will take approximately 2 years to complete in each individual area. The benefits include:

- Wards feel calmer
- Gives nurses back 10% of their time to spend on direct patient care
- Increases feelings of safety
- 90% reduction in repetitive documentation

For more information about the project contact Pam Brown on 07766 424281 Pam.brown@cwp.nhs.uk or Dave Jones, Project Lead David.jones@cwp.nhs.uk

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