



PRESS STATEMENT

15 February 2016

Mental health taskforce report provides an ambitious programme of support and greater access

An independent Mental Health Taskforce, commissioned by NHS England as part of the NHS *Five year forward view* and chaired by Mind chief executive Paul Farmer, has been published today. Commenting in response to the taskforce, Saffron Cordery, director of policy and strategy at NHS Providers, said:

“Everyone in the mental health community should welcome this report. It provides important focus on what service users and patients experiencing every type of mental ill health need – an ambitious programme of support and greater access to services.

“However, against the backdrop of extensive financial challenge in the NHS, it remains to be seen whether the proposals set out in the report are genuinely affordable. It is notable that there is no additional upfront investment to help deliver what is an ambitious agenda outlined in the report. In acute services we are seeing substantial investment in transformation – it would be helpful to follow suit in mental health and community services. ”

“The report rightly focuses on the need to get commissioning for mental health right, and makes a welcome intervention on data and transparency: we know the right kind of information, analysis and intelligence has been a low priority in mental health and that must change. This lack of transparency has held back progress in mental health.

“In particular, we welcome the emphasis in the report on crisis care, widening access to a range of services including perinatal mental health, improving the support people with mental health problems receive for their physical health needs; and highlighting the importance of physical and mental health together, including investment in liaison psychiatry.

“We will work with our members – providers of NHS mental health, acute, community and ambulance services – to identify what the recommendations in this extensive report mean for them and their service users and patients.”

Ends

Notes to editors

About NHS Providers

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services
- NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate
- NHS Providers has more than 90% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership

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