



*Mental Health Taskforce:
an Introduction*

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Introduction to the taskforce

The taskforce is chaired by Louis Appleby, the National Director for Mental Health. Its membership brings a wide range of expertise, knowledge and experience to tackle and advise on the difficult issues involved in implementation. It includes those representing front line staff, managers and clinicians, users and carers. The full membership list can be found on the back cover of this leaflet.



Members commit themselves to the principles enshrined in their mission statement below.

We aim to develop mental health services that are planned and delivered around the needs and aspirations of service users, and specifically that:

- *Treat individuals living with mental health problems with dignity and encourage their full involvement in their care.*
- *Respect cultural and ethnic diversity and tackle discriminatory practices.*
- *Respect the role and skills of carers, acknowledging them as partners in care and supporting them in this role.*
- *Promote positive mental health and take effective steps to reduce stigma and discrimination.*

- *Make the best and most effective treatments available, when and where they are needed.*
- *Respond appropriately to need, so that people with acute illness receive prompt access to care, and so that those with a broad range of health and social needs – including housing, occupation and finance – receive comprehensive care.*
- *Emphasise safety, particularly of service users themselves.*
- *Are delivered by a workforce who are skilled, of high morale and able to adopt new ways of working.*

The Mental Health Taskforce is one of 11 taskforces established by the Secretary of State for Health to drive forward the Government's programme of modernisation through implementation of the NHS Plan, published in July 2000. The NHS Plan announced substantial additional investment for the NHS including over £300m by 2003/4 for mental health services.

The NHS Plan fast-forwards the implementation of a National Service Framework for Mental Health, published in September 1999 and the first of the National Service Frameworks. This set out a 10 year programme to set national standards for adult (16–65yrs) mental health services in five key areas – health promotion, primary care, severely mentally ill, carers and suicide. The NSF/NHS Plan reforms are based on the following principles.

- User-focused services with strong user input into service developments.
- Different ways of working.
- Integrated services, through multi-agency care teams and the formation of health and social care trusts.

NHS Plan Commitments

- Over 1000 new graduate primary care staff to treat common mental health problems, e.g. anxiety and depression normally managed in primary care; an extra 500 community mental health team workers.
- 50 early intervention teams to work with young people with psychosis, and their families, to treat and support them at the earliest possible stage to reduce the severity and length of the illness.

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- 50 additional assertive outreach teams to engage those with severe and enduring illness who find it difficult to access services.
- 335 crisis resolution teams to provide emergency treatment and support in crisis situations to avoid the need for further hospital admissions.
- Service redesign to ensure that there are women only day services in each Health Authority.
- 700 extra staff to provide support and breaks for carers of those with mental illness.
- Additional 300 staff to enable prisoners with serious mental health problems to receive better care in prison and to have a care plan and care co-ordinator on release from prison to provide continuity of care.
- 400 people inappropriately in high secure hospitals should be provided with alternative places in more suitable accommodation.
- 200 more long term secure beds will be provided and 400 additional community staff employed to provide support when patients are eventually discharged.
- Plans will be developed for management of those with severe personality disorder who present a high risk to the public, including 140 new secure places and 75 specialist rehabilitation hostel places with 400 new staff.
- Statutory powers will be taken to ensure that mental health and social care provision can be integrated.
- New and more developed roles for service users and carers.



Implementation

Implementation is managed through project teams relating to the five key areas of the national service framework and incorporating the NHS Plan commitments and underpinning strategies such as workforce, research and development and performance management, women and ethnic minorities strategies.

- Health Promotion
- Primary Care
- Severely Mentally Ill
- Carers
- Suicide
- Workforce, Training and Education
- Performance Management including Information Strategy
- Research and Development
- Communications
- Ethnic Minorities Strategy
- Women's Services and Women's National Strategy
- Prison mental health services
- Mental Health Act Reforms
- Services to manage those with severe and dangerous personality disorder
- High Secure Services.

Taskforce members meet monthly and also work outside meetings with individual project teams on specific issues and also communicate key messages with their own networks. So far the Taskforce has scrutinised and advised on all project plans relating to the above.



Achievements to date

- 170 assertive outreach teams have been established nationally
- 500 extra secure beds
- 320 24-hour staffed beds
- White Paper on Mental Health Act Reforms published in December 2000

Further reading

Publications can be ordered through:

Department of Health Publications
PO Box 77
London SE1 6XH
Fax: 01623 724
E-mail: doh@prolog.uk.com

Or found online at: www.doh.gov.uk

Taskforce members

Prof Louis Appleby (<i>chair</i>)	National Director for Mental Health
Paddy Cooney	Chief Executive Somerset Partnership NHS Trust
Prof. John Cox	President Royal College of Psychiatrists
Stephen Firm	Director of Service Development Oxleas NHS Trust
David Fordham	Mental Health Manager East Sussex, Brighton and Hove Health Authority
Sue Hunt	Chief Executive Worcestershire Community and Mental Health Care Trust
David Joannides	Director of Social Services Association of Directors of Social Services
Ruth Lesirge	Chief Executive Mental Health Foundation
Matt Muijen	Director Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health
Prof.S.Sashidharan	Medical Director North Birmingham Mental Health Trust
Diana Whitworth	Chief Executive Carers UK
Prof. Stefan Priebe	Prof of Psychiatry East London & City Health Authority
Cliff Prior	Chief Executive National Schizophrenia Association
Tony Russell	Director Breakthrough
Tony Kendrick	Professor of Primary Medical Care Southampton University Trust
Barbara Kennedy	Chief Executive Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust

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Chris Manning	PriMHE
Richard Brook	Chief Executive Mind
Sarah Mullally	Chief Nursing Officer Department of Health
Antony Sheehan	Joint Head of Mental Health Services Department of Health
John Mahoney	Joint Head of Mental Health Services Department of Health
Andrea Humphrey	Head of Mental Health Legislation Department of Health
Felicity Harvey	Head of Prison Health Care Policy Unit Department of Health
Dick Stockford	Director of Policy Development Department of Health Trent
Eddie Kane	Director of Mental Health Department of Health North West
Prue Kiddie	Head of Workforce Planning Department of Health
Gill Stephens	Assistant Chief Nursing Officer Department of Health
Prof. Clair Chilvers	Regional Director of Research and Development Department of Health Trent region
Anne Fletcher	Clinical Manager Information Manager Department of Health
Kathryn Tyson	Head of Women's & Children's Health Services Department of Health
Christina Pond	Associate Director Modernisation Agency
Steve Pitt	Assistant Chief Inspector South West Social Services Performance Directorate
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