

Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health Consensus Statement

Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health

The Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health is underpinned by an understanding that taking a prevention-focused approach to improving the public's mental health is shown to make a valuable contribution to achieving a fairer and more equitable society. The Concordat promotes evidence based planning and commissioning to increase the impact on reducing health inequalities. The sustainability and cost effectiveness of this approach will be enhanced by the inclusion of action that impacts on the wider determinants of mental health and wellbeing.

The Concordat is intended to provide a focus for cross-sector action to deliver a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches across local authorities, the NHS, public, private and VCSE sector organisations, educational settings and employers. It acknowledges the active role played by people with lived experience of mental health problems, individually and through user led organisations.

This definition of the Concordat has been agreed by the organisations listed at the end of this document. It represents a public mental health informed approach to prevention, as outlined in the NHS Five Year Forward View, and promotes relevant NICE guidance and existing evidence based interventions and delivery approaches, such as 'making every contact count'.

Consensus statement

This consensus statement describes the shared commitment of the organisations signed below to work together via the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health, through local and national action, to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental health.

The undersigned organisations agree that:

1. To transform the health system, we must increase the focus on prevention and the wider determinants of mental health. We recognise the need for a shift towards prevention-focussed leadership and action throughout the mental health system; and into the wider system. In turn this will impact positively on the NHS and social care system by enabling early help through the use of upstream interventions.
2. There must be joint cross-sectoral action to deliver an increased focus on the prevention of mental health problems and the promotion of good mental health at local level. This should draw on the expertise of people with lived experience of mental health problems, and the wider community, to identify solutions and promote equality.
3. We will promote a prevention-focussed approach towards improving the public's mental health, as all our organisations have a role to play.
4. We will work collaboratively across organisational boundaries and disciplines to secure place-based improvements that are tailored to local needs and assets, in turn increasing sustainability and the effective use of limited resources.
5. We will build the capacity and capability across our workforce to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental health, as outlined in the Public Mental Health Leadership and Workforce Development Framework Call to Action¹.
6. We believe local areas will benefit from adopting the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.
7. We are committed to supporting local authorities, policy makers, NHS clinical commissioning groups and other commissioners, service providers, employers and the voluntary and community sector to adopt this Concordat and its approach.

¹ Public Health England. Public mental health leadership and workforce development framework. London: Public Health England; 2015 (updated 2016).

Signatories

This first Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health was co produced by:

Dr Andrew Furber, President, Association of Directors of Public Health UK

Kathy Roberts, Chief Executive, Association of Mental Health Providers

Sarah Hughes, Chief Executive, Centre for Mental Health

Professor Dame Sue Bailey, Chair, Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition

Jonathan Marron, Director General Community Care, Department of Health

John Middleton, President, Faculty of Public Health

Cllr Izzi Seccombe, LGA, Local Government Association

Dr Phil Moore, Chair, Mental Health Commissioners Network of NHS Clinical Commissioners

Jenny Edwards, Chief Executive, Mental Health Foundation

Sarah Yiannoullou, Managing Director, National Survivor User Network

Claire Murdoch, National Mental Health Director (and National Senior Responsible Officer for Five Year Forward View for Mental Health), NHS England

Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive, Public Health England

The Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health has been endorsed by:

Statutory organisations:

Dr Paul Lelliott, Deputy Chief Inspector (Mental Health), Care Quality Commission

Ian Cummings, Chief Executive, Health Education England

Andrew Dillon, Chief Executive, National Institute for Health Care and Excellence

Rob Shaw, Interim Chief Executive, NHS Digital

Professor Tim Kendall, National Clinical Director for Mental Health, NHS Improvement

Janet Davis, Chief Executive and General Secretary, Royal College of Nurses

Professor Wendy Burn, President, Royal College of Psychiatrists

National Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations:

Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director, Age UK

Rick Henderson, Chief Executive, Homeless Link

Andrew van Doorn, Chief Executive, Housing Associations' Charitable Trust

Paul Farmer, Chief Executive, Mind

Brian Dow and Ruth Sutherland, Co-Chairs, National Suicide Prevention Alliance

Paul Martin, Chair, The National LGB&T Partnership

Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive, National Voices

Mark Winstanley, Chief Executive, Rethink

Ruth Sutherland, Chief Executive, Samaritans

Rosie Tressler, Chief Executive, Student Minds

Barbara Rayment, Director, Youth Access