

Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network Leadership Group

Terms of reference

Introduction

The London Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network Leadership Group provides a forum for a multidisciplinary group of clinicians with diverse perspectives to share their collective knowledge, deliberate strategic clinical issues and make recommendations for improvements in mental health care that will benefit all Londoners. The group will lead a programme of work for London to deliver large and lasting change.

Role

- To provide clinical leadership and endorsement for strategic decisions of the configuration and design of services and amongst clinicians across the capital
- To provide objective, evidence-based solutions to clinical quality and safety challenges across the capital, free from organisational bias
- To develop clinical recommendations for consideration and agreement, and develop methods to ensure implementation
- To provide a forum where multidisciplinary clinicians can share their collective knowledge on clinical issues, both to each other and to relevant stakeholders
- To encourage joint understanding and a holistic view of London's health system

Governance

- The London Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network Leadership Group serves as a leadership committee, assured by the Strategic Network Oversight Group. The Group will report into the London Clinical Senate, as required.
- The Group will make recommendations based on clinical best practice to improve quality outcomes and patient experience and provide leadership to ensure implementation.
- The Group is involved in the decision making process concerning any relevant strategic development of services. Significant clinical decisions regarding service delivery ought not to be implemented until the Group has provided its input

Key functions

Vision and strategy

- Direct clinical conversations on performance in the capital, providing expertise of key indicators and outcomes that measure improved patient care
- Support health organisations across London to develop recommendations for strategy and vision for the future in alignment with national and local priorities
- Supply clinical advice and ownership for future plans of care

Clinical commissioning

- Collaboratively consider commissioning plans that support clinical vision and strategies
- Provide expert input into key aspects of commissioning plans, including service changes
- Consider how quality and safety are maintained within commissioned services

Providing clinical leadership

- Determine and direct clear clinical recommendations on the most appropriate configuration and design of services

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- Serve as clinical champion to future service changes

Membership

Members are requested not to send deputies as substitution for their attendance.

Chair

The chair of the Group will be the London Mental Health Director for NHS England London Region.

Members

Members are not selected as representative of a profession or organisation. They are selected as individuals who attend in their own right. Membership will be broad enough to reflect the range of views that would be encountered across the community of clinicians on significant clinical strategic issues.

The majority of the membership will be made up of clinicians who have regular, direct clinical duties, or have roles working with people with mental health problems. Clinical leads for projects that have a direct link to the strategic clinical network will automatically become members of the strategic clinical leadership group (SCLG) and be invited to attend SCLG meetings.

These are key roles within the network and will be responsible for providing strong clinical and professional direction, essential to the network's role in supporting high quality clinical commissioning. Members will be expected to provide leadership of a key area of our work.

Patient representatives will also be included and supported to work with this group.

Membership process

Members will be appointed in accordance with the recommendations by the executive panel. To be considered, potential members must complete an application form.

Membership applications will be considered by a panel consisting of representatives of NHS England and the chair of the Group will be the London Mental Health Director for NHS England London Region.

The panel will ensure that the membership consists of clinicians with direct clinical duties covering a broad range of experience.

Nomination

The Chair may approach nominating bodies or approach clinicians directly and ask for nominations that match the skills, backgrounds and expertise needed to complement existing membership.

Ad hoc attendees

To ensure a broad range of clinical input and perspective, staff with relevant expertise may be required to attend Group meetings to contribute to the discussion. As the Group meetings are intended to be closed, ad hoc attendees may be permitted to join pending prior approval.

Declaration of interest

It is expected that all members declare interests and their applicability to the Group prior to appointment and/or relevant discussion.

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Meetings

Frequency

The Group will meet approximately six times a year once established, but monthly meetings may be needed in the initial phase.

If an interim meeting is required to address an urgent or pending issue, the Chair will call a meeting outside the usual cycle.

Leaders of individual work-streams will be expected to spend time developing the work and engaging with stakeholders outside of the formal meeting structure.

Quorum

A quorum for meetings will be 50 per cent plus one person for majority, including the Chair. As members attend as individuals in their own right, the use of nominated proxies is discouraged.

Participation

It is expected that members will commit the time necessary to understand the issues considered by the Group, participate vigorously and respectfully in debate and genuinely commit to identifying sustainable strategic decisions on behalf of Londoners. Members are expected to attend at least 50 per cent of meetings during the year.

Agenda and minutes

Agenda items will be agreed at the end of each prior meeting. The agenda and any supporting documents will be circulated by email in advance of the meeting. Papers may be tabled pending approval of the Chair.

Review

The Group will review its purpose, function, performance, membership and terms of reference on an annual basis, due in late 2015.