

Mental Health

1. The *Five Year Forward View for Mental Health* (FYFVMH) set out a clear and unarguable agenda for the reform of mental health care, to improve the outcomes and wellbeing of people with mental health problems, as well as to tackle the wider costs of mental ill health to the health service and society as a whole. The *One Year On* report showed that initial progress had been made, but that the challenge remained significant.
2. Over the past year, there has been welcome effort by CCGs across the country to meet this vision and to drive improvements to mental health services. The publication of *The Next Steps on the Five Year Forward View* in March 2017 reiterated the need to maintain and build on this work and its importance to the vision for the NHS as a whole.
3. While the scale of transformation needed to improve mental health services will take time to bear fruit, the 2016/17 mental health element of the CCG IAF demonstrates that progress is being made. The overall picture is one of improvement, but there is still much work to do.
4. Although by no means covering the full breadth of mental health services being delivered by the NHS, the indicators within the CCG IAF highlight local performance on five priority areas set out in the FYFVMH. Alongside the two national standards for Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) and Early Intervention in Psychosis (EIP), the three 'transformation indicators' included in the year-end assessment act as a measure of readiness to make improvement and of whether CCGs are likely to be able to deliver the transformation needed in mental health services over the coming years. We particularly commend those CCGs where the IAPT recovery rate is above 60% and where 100% of people with early symptoms of psychosis are seen within two weeks.
5. In addition to the indicators within the CCG IAF, progress towards delivery of the FYFVMH continues to be monitored through the [Mental Health Dashboard](#). Together they are supporting the increased openness and transparency which the Independent Clinical Panel sees as vital to ensuring the NHS, people with mental health problems and the public are able to see the progress being made towards improving the care people receive.
6. Success across these areas relies on sustained and sufficient investment in mental health services. The Panel is pleased that whether CCGs have planned to meet the Mental Health Investment Standard is included as a core element of the finance plan indicator in the overall CCG IAF. Sustained investment in services is vital, and it is important that NHS England continue to monitor the levels of investment in mental health both locally and nationally. CCGs' achievement of the standard will be published in the Mental Health Dashboard on 28 July.
7. The scale of the national programme NHS England has undertaken demonstrates that improving mental health services is a priority for the NHS.

The Panel supports NHS England approach to supporting CCGs to achieve this change. I encourage CCGs with identified areas for improvement to use the available resources to support the mental health element of their delivery plans. In addition, I encourage you to make use of the experience of people with mental health problems, families, voluntary organisations and other local stakeholders to help deliver change.

8. In addition to routine monitoring of performance against the indicators, the overall rating achieved by each CCG will be subject to scrutiny at the regional 'deep dive' meetings due to take place at the end of September. This will provide an opportunity for regional and national leads to identify those CCGs which are most in need of improvement across the programme with a view to identifying additional opportunities for support. In particular, please take account of the diversity of your local communities and identify areas where you can make progress on inequalities.
9. On behalf of the Panel, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued efforts to improve mental health services.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Farmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Farmer, Mental Health Independent Clinical Panel Chair