



NMHDU activity to support PSA 16:
Improving housing and employment
opportunities for people with mental
health problems

Briefing 1

'The government is committed to ensuring that the most vulnerable adults are offered the chance to get back on a path to a more successful life by increasing the proportion of socially excluded adults in settled accommodation and in employment, education or training.'

PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENTS were introduced in the 1998 government Comprehensive Spending Review. They set out the government's top priorities for public spending and the performance indicators that will be used to measure progress.

Public Service Agreement (PSA) 16 was announced in 2007, and addresses the social inclusion of the four most excluded groups in society:

- people in contact with secondary mental health services
- people with learning disabilities
- offenders
- young people leaving care

The goal is to improve access to settled housing and employment, education or training for people within these groups.

These groups have been chosen because the government recognises that they face a particularly complex combination of problems and circumstances and need additional support and resources to tackle their social exclusion.

'Without the firm foundations of a job or settled accommodation, the most disadvantaged adults risk a lifetime of social exclusion for themselves and their children'

PSA Delivery Agreement 16
HM Government, October 2007

THE NMH DU HAS been commissioned to support the implementation of PSA 16 for people with a mental health condition.

The PSA 16 Project sits within the Promoting Social Inclusion and Social Justice Programme. This programme also includes Shift, the national anti-stigma and discrimination campaign.

The other programmes within NMH DU are:

- Mental Health World Class Commissioning
- Improving Access to Psychological Therapies
- Promoting Equalities in Mental Health
- Promoting Social Justice and Social Inclusion
- Improving Mental Health Care Pathways
- Promoting Well-being and Public Mental Health
- Personalisation in Mental Health (emerging programme).

The PSA 16 Project works alongside the Valuing People team in DH, and has close links with the Mental Health World Class Commissioning, Well-being and Public Mental Health and Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programmes within NMH DU.

The PSA 16 project has three main strands:

1 Support national policy colleagues in cross-directorate and cross-government working

- Feed into developing national Department of Health policy relevant to PSA 16 outcomes – eg. New Horizons, World Class Commissioning, Darzi Review.
- Provide a bank of knowledge on mental health/social inclusion/exclusion/social policy to inform external stakeholders and government colleagues.
- Provide links at national level to support regional and strategic health authority work around the government's Mental Health and Employment strategies – Working our way to better mental health and Work Recovery and Inclusion.
- Provide national and co-ordinated leadership in partnership with the Valuing People team.

2 Support the regions in their responsibilities for delivering PSA 16

- Support deputy regional directors for social care and partnerships (DRDs) within the regional Government Offices to develop regional infrastructures and drive forward delivery of PSA 16.
- Disseminate research and best practice.
- Provide expert advice on mental health and employment and housing.
- Work with the DRDs to help engage SHAs and mental health trusts to deliver PSA 16 for mental health.
- Ensure academic rigour in collection, review and dissemination of knowledge and practice.

3 Work co-productively with other national organisations and agencies

- Support activity between the Department of Health, Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Communities and Local Government on PSA 16 outcomes and across other government departments.
- Ensure involvement and engagement of people with experience of mental health problems, carers and those using services.
- Engage relevant statutory agencies and organisations [eg. JobCentre Plus, Learning & Skills Council, Homes and Communities Agency, Tenant Services Authority, National Institute for Adult Continuing Education, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, NHS Employers, Local Government Association, NHS Confederation, Health and Safety Executive, Occupational Health and Safety Administration].
- Work with third sector and other external stakeholders [eg. Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, Rethink, National Housing Federation, Employers Forum on Disability].

Employment focus

THE PSA 16 PROJECT will support implementation by mental health trusts and other relevant agencies of Work, Recovery and Inclusion: Employment Support for people in contact with secondary mental health services, within the context of the overall government mental health and employment strategy Working Our Way to Better Mental Health: a framework for action and the New Horizons programme of action for mental health and well-being, and informed by the Realising Ambitions review of specialist employment support for people with serious and long-term mental health conditions.

Priorities include:

- Scoping a resource to support the development of evidence based vocational services within mental health services.
- Reviewing the evidence base on Individual Placement and Support (IPS) and other employment support activities.
- Developing a review of cost benefit analysis of employment and mental health to identify what we know already and where further work needs to be undertaken.

Housing focus

THE PSA 16 PROJECT is working with the National Housing Federation to support cross government and regional activity.

The approach is two-fold:

- Promoting the importance of housing in recovery.
- Delivering improvements and solutions in partnership.

Key areas within the delivery plan include:

- Promoting the importance of housing outcomes for achieving improved mental health.
- Addressing improved joint commissioning through the World Class Commissioning Framework and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment approach.
- Improving information sharing between organisations.
- Identifying the role of housing and housing support in mental health care pathways.
- Achieving choice and control through improved housing options; demonstrating the cost effectiveness of discharge from acute care to community based supported housing
- Improving the identification of mental health problems and access to services for people who experience homelessness.
- Ensuring that housing investment in new affordable housing benefits people with mental health problems.
- Improving data collection and the evidence base about what works and why.



National Mental Health
Development Unit

The National Mental Health Development Unit (NMHDU) is the agency charged with supporting the implementation of mental health policy in England by the Department of Health in collaboration with the NHS, Local Authorities and other major stakeholders.

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