4. Progress towards meeting policy ambitions

NHS England published a ‘one year on’ update on progress implementing the MH-FYFV in February 2017 (NHS England 2017a). It sets out what changes had taken place within the first year and how far the system was on track to meet its eventual goals. These include:

Children and young people

- An extra 21,000 children and young people receiving treatment (compared with 2014/15), with 150 new and 556 existing staff receiving training through the CYP-IAPT programme
- Plans are in place to spend the year’s allocation of £149m from Future in Mind, but “a small sub-set of CCGs have not planned to use this funding in full for this purpose”
- Extra inpatient beds for children and new waiting time standards for eating disorder services

Perinatal mental health

- New specialist services are being established in 20 areas covering 90 CCGs aiming to treat “at least 750 more women” this year
- A second wave of funding for other areas will be released next year
- Four new mother and baby units plus 8 extra beds in existing units
- Awareness training for non-specialist staff is being delivered to 3,000 staff this year
- A bursary scheme to fund training for extra perinatal psychiatrists

Adult common mental health problems

- An increase on last year of 72,500 people receiving IAPT services
- 22 new integrated services for people with long-term conditions seeing 6,000 people this year and aiming to see 30,000 in 2017/18
- 600 training places for new therapists
- Expanding the number of employment advisers within IAPT services

Community, acute and crisis care

- EIP services are already exceeding the target of treating 60% of people with first episode psychosis within 2 weeks: the number of referrals increased by 12% last year whilst staffing levels only rose by 9%
- NHS England has commissioned “a new three-year programme of work to deliver the first set of treatment pathways to define high-quality care for adults with more severe or complex needs in the community”
- Funding in the next two years to expand liaison psychiatry services “for adults and older adults”
- Published data on out of area placements to support “the ambition to eliminate inappropriate acute placements by 2020/21”

Secure care

A national audit of secure services has been complete and a model for community forensic services developed
Health and justice

Liaison and diversion services now cover 68% of the population and are “on track to meet the planned 100% coverage by 2019/20”

Suicide prevention

95% of local authorities now have a suicide prevention plan; “a quality assessment of local plans is to take place later this year”

Testing new approaches

- Six pilot sites for providers to take responsibility for commissioning (4 adult secure, 2 CAMHS inpatient) begin work in April 2017
- Nine pilot sites testing new models of CAMHS crisis care
- Digital approaches, including updating NHS 111 and improving self-referral to IAPT through NHS Choices

System changes

The revised CQUIN framework for 2017-19 includes:

- “more coherent pathways between children’s and adult settings”
- “to ensure people presenting at A&E with psychosocial needs have these needs met”
- Meeting physical health needs of people with a severe mental illness

Next Steps for the Five Year Forward View

NHS England’s recently published implementation plan for the Five Year Forward View (2017b) reinforces the importance of mental health, alongside cancer, primary care and A&E, as a key priority. It notes specifically:

- There will be “74 24-hour ‘core 24’ mental health teams, covering five times more A&Es by March 2019, than now. The service will be available in more than a quarter of acute hospitals by March 2018 and reach nearly half by March 2019, compared with under one-in-ten today.”
- “800 mental health therapists will be placed in primary care by March 2018 rising to over 1500 by March 2019. These therapists will lead the way in how we integrate physical and mental healthcare outside of hospital.”
- There will be “an extra 140,000 physical health checks for people with severe mental illness in 2017/18, rising to 280,000 health checks in 2018/19.”
- The establishment of a “single national programme management team led by a national mental health director and national clinical director, aligning the work of NHS England, NHS Improvement, Health Education England, Public Health England, and the other Arm’s Length Bodies.”

Transforming children’s mental health services

There has been little independent analysis as yet of progress in relation to the MH-FYFV. However, the Education Policy Institute has been investigating the implementation of Future in Mind. Its review (Frith 2017) identified wide variations in the quality and comprehensiveness of the 123 Local Transformation Plans that were developed in 2015 and
in the number of CCGs that were meeting NHS England’s performance measures for improving CAMHS in 2016. Specifically, it found:

- Less than a third of CCGs had a fully funded plan to improve children’s crisis care (and 10% had no plan at all)
- 90 young people were staying on adult acute inpatient wards (half of them in the North of England)
- Wide variations in per capita CCG spending on children’s mental health (from £23 in the bottom quartile to £52 in the top quartile)