

Government announces multi-million pound investment as start of NHS mental health care transformation

- Mental Health Minister announces funding to transform community mental health services as part of NHS Long Term Plan
- First tranche of funding will provide twelve pilot sites with 1,000 staff for new specialist services to treat range of mental health issues
- Part of Government commitment to improve mental health care, backed by an extra £2.3 billion a year by 2023/24, £975 million of which is earmarked for community mental health provision.

Tens of thousands of people with mental ill health across England are set to benefit from better access to psychological therapies, housing advice and employment support in their communities, as part of landmark plans announced today to transform NHS mental health care.

As part of the largest ever funding increase to mental health services, the first wave of 12 areas have been given the green light to recruit 1,000 extra staff and revamp local NHS services to build closer ties with charities, local councils and others – to help support those with the most severe mental health issues in their communities.

The 12 pilot sites will receive £70 million in funding to bring together staff with expertise in treating a range of mental health issues, from eating disorders and alcohol addiction through to complex mental health difficulties such as psychosis or bipolar disorder.

Today's announcement is the first step in a massive £975 million investment into transforming community mental health services, made possible by the Government backing the health service with its largest ever funding increase.

Mental

Health Minister Nadine Dorries said:

“This

Government is committed to improving our NHS and today’s announcement will pave the way for a huge step-change in how the health service supports those with mental health issues in their communities. We know there are many causes behind mental illness – including significant life changes, problems at work or addiction – so it is only right that the NHS brings services together to serve patients in their communities.

“This

funding, the first step in our extra £975 million investment in community mental health care, will allow local areas to recruit extra staff to run brand new specialist services, helping them transform the lives of those suffering from poor mental health.”

The

Government pledged to radically transform community services for those with severe mental health issues as part of the NHS Long Term Plan, and the pilots will be funded as part of the extra £2.3 billion investment in mental health the health service will receive each year, with a view to rolling out the most successful approaches across England.

Around

1,000 extra staff will be recruited to the twelve new sites across the country, which will test out new ways of joining up services, giving people consistent treatment and ensuring they stay in contact with the right care teams, even as their condition improves.

This

will mean people with severe mental illnesses, such as eating disorders and personality disorders, will have better access to psychological therapies and other specialist treatment as soon as they need it.

With

around 20% of people losing contact with the NHS when they move between different teams or services, the twelve sites will also introduce new roles including specialist ‘link workers’, who will be recruited to support people in accessing the different services they need, including in the voluntary sector.

The

new integrated services will mean young, working age and older adults will be

able to flexibly and seamlessly access specialist mental health support directly through their local GP practice or community hub depending on the person's choice, wishes and severity of need at any given time.

Information

gathered from the experience and outcomes of the sites announced today will inform new investment in all parts of England from this year, and all local health and care systems will receive additional funding boosts to transform community mental health care from 2021/22.

CASE STUDY

In
North East London, the money will fund new staff to;

- act
as a broker for patients suffering from mental health conditions
with
their employer
- engage
with DWP, housing and social benefits departments on behalf of
mental
health patients.
- support
older, vulnerable patients to access social and wellbeing activities
in
their local area – preventing loneliness, a cause of mental bad
mental
health.

ENDS