

The Adult Social Care Green Paper – Issues for People with Mental Health Problems and Mental Health Services

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Mental Health Foundation

Mental Health Foundation

- UK-wide charity
- We address issues of public mental health and mental well being &...
- rights, quality of life and opportunities affecting people with mental health problems and people with learning disabilities for...
- people of all ages...
- through research, practice and service development projects, dissemination, policy work and campaigning
- No service provision, local branches or members – but people with mental health problems at the centre of our work
- Incorporates the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities

Adult Social Care Green Paper – the positives

- Promoting choice, control and independence
- Development of personal budgets
- Emphasis on well-being and prevention
- Local authorities to take (remain in?) the lead – but in partnership with others
- Emphasis on involving the whole community
- Developing the workforce and new services

Adult Social Care Green Paper – challenges for mental health

- Promoting choice, control and independence
 - But the mental health system is different – because risk averse, public safety issues and mental health legislation
 - What if people choose the “wrong” services or ones that “create” dependency (self-assessments)?
 - Potential for isolation, neglect and abuse

Adult Social Care Green Paper – challenges for mental health

- Development of personal budgets
 - Existing low take up of Direct Payments among people with MHP
 - Will it be extended to include health care?
 - Information on what is available – a Which guide?
 - Availability of support, advocacy, brokerage and navigation – especially for people with more severe/complex problems
 - Systems and procedures being ‘user-friendly’
 - Flexible enough to accommodate changing needs
 - Commitment of staff and services
 - Will it generate a spontaneous market?

Adult Social Care Green Paper – challenges for mental health

- Emphasis on well-being and prevention
 - People with mild/moderate and/or early stages of mental health problems often excluded from receiving services
 - Lowering thresholds for eligibility?
 - How to do this on a cost-neutral basis?
 - Risk of “snake oil” merchants

Adult Social Care Green Paper – challenges for mental health

- Local authorities to take (remain in?) the lead – but in partnership with others
 - Dominance of medical model in mental health
 - Engage with public mental health initiatives
 - Integrated service provision in mental health

Adult Social Care Green Paper – challenges for mental health

- Emphasis on involving the whole community
 - Communities often exclude
 - Capacity building in the MH voluntary sector
 - Mainstreaming opportunities and services
 - Engaging with marginal and isolated communities

Adult Social Care Green Paper – challenges for mental health

- Developing the MH workforce and new MH services
 - Shifting values and attitudes – working with diversity
 - Non-qualified workforce and family carers
 - Service users as service providers?
 - Can individual consumer power in an artificial market generate the required (specialist) services?

We use research and practical projects to help people **survive, recover** from and **prevent** mental health problems. We do this by **learning** what makes and keeps people mentally well, **communicating** our findings to a wide range of people, and turning research into **practical solutions** that make a difference to people's lives, now and in the future.

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Adult Social Care Green Paper – challenges for mental health

- Can the vision deliver, with what and how, something different and better for...
 - A single parent, socially isolated in a market town, with mild to moderate depression?
 - A rough sleeping Asian man with a diagnosis of schizophrenia and substance misuse?