



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

To:
LHB Chief Executives
NHS Trust Chief Executives
Local Authority Directors of Social Services
National Mental Health Voluntary Organisations

August 2007

Dear Colleague

Consultation on Stronger in Partnership 2

Please find attached a consultation draft of 'Stronger in Partnership 2', the Welsh Assembly Government's revised good practice guidance on mental health service user and carer involvement. This document follows up Stronger in Partnership which was issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in September 2004.

'Stronger in Partnership 2' has been produced as a result of the Review of Standard 2 of the Adult Mental Health National Service Framework carried out by the Assembly's Health and Social Services Committee under the last administration. The Review concluded that "Stronger in Partnership should be reviewed with a view to giving more emphasis to the involvement of users, carers and the voluntary sector in the initial strategic planning of services". 'Stronger in Partnership 2' meets this recommendation.

This second edition, which was produced with the assistance of service users and providers, covers the same issues as the first edition such as the benefits of service user involvement and a Good Practice Checklist and Charter but with additional information such as guidance on payments to service users for their involvement, links to wider initiatives and practical examples of service user involvement.

You are asked to comment on this consultation draft using the following template.

Please return your responses to:

Sarah Austin, Mental Health Vulnerable Groups and Offenders Policy Branch, Welsh Assembly Government, 4th Floor, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.

Or via email to Sarah.Austin@wales.gsi.gov.uk

by Friday 2nd November 2007

Stronger in Partnership 2 Consultation Response Template

Response from the College of Occupational Therapists

The College of Occupational Therapists (COT) is pleased to provide a response to this Welsh Assembly Government document. The COT represents around 29,000 occupational therapists, support workers and students who are either working or studying across the United Kingdom, of which over 1,500 are either working or studying in Wales.

Occupational therapists (OTs) work in the NHS, Local Authority Social Services and Housing Departments, schools, primary care settings, and a wide range of vocational and employment rehabilitation services.

Occupational Therapists are regulated by the Health Professions Council, and work with individuals of all ages with a wide range of occupational problems resulting from mental, physical, social or developmental difficulties. The philosophy of occupational therapy is founded on the concept of occupation as a crucial element of health and well being. Practice is based on holistic, person centred care.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Policy officer, Wales at the address below:

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Policy Officer, Wales
College of Occupational Therapists
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Swyddog Polisi yng Nghymru
Coleg Therapyddion Galwedigaethol
Blwch Post 4156
Caerdydd
CF14 0ZA

Please provide your comments on the following Chapters

Introduction

page

The Introduction is excellent and the College of Occupational Therapists is pleased to see a strong statement that equal inclusion of carers is expected. The profession welcomes the excellent statements which identify the impact of mental ill health on people's ability to participate in occupations such as work and social inclusion.

What this Guide is for and some issues to consider

page 5

The principles expressed here are excellent. While it is important to ensure service users are involved in planning wide services and in general decisions as representatives on planning groups. This chapter would benefit from explicitly stating the need for those same principles to be applied in an individual planning his or her own service: such as a reference to the care programme approach.

Why Involve People?

Page 8

Involving service users also helps reduce stigma as others as forced to recognise the skills and abilities of users and carers who participate. Involving people in their own care as well as broader service planning should be seen as an essential component of working in mental health services - essential core practice. Genuine involvement requires making meeting times appropriate and offering as appropriate levels of remuneration as other attendees receive.

Levels of Involvement

page 13

This is a good section and incorporates all issues. Although clearly arising out of the Adult NSF & Review of standard 2, there are important issues about levels of involvement for

children, adolescents and older people who are service users and carers. Guidance would also be valuable for those groups.

Links to Wider Initiatives

Page 29

This section is useful and includes everything. However, this is a difficult section as it ranges across broad areas: from Welsh Assembly Government policy to specific detail and processes on issues such as Payment & Reward. It may help to:

- eliminate typos
- check for consistent use of language to ensure clarity
- make the section on Reward & Recognition less repetitive so it flows better
- decide whether this is a piece of guidance or background linkages. It may be better to make this a single piece of guidance incorporating everything in a coherent way rather than copying in sections from different sources.

Charter for Participation and Involvement

page 42

The charter is good, although it could be stronger in supporting an individual's right to participate in his or her own service planning. It is not clear whether service commissioners and providers are required to adopt it or if they can choose not to. The College believes it should be a requirement if possible.

Good Practice Checklist and Monitoring Tool

page 46

This is good and should be used by all staff and senior executives. It may help to state clearly who could use it and which parts are aimed at helping service users and carers and which help staff or service executives.

It would benefit from an action relating to active service user/carer participation in his / her own care/service planning and delivery.

Annex 1: Contact List for Service User Involvement workers

page 55

This is useful but it will be difficult to keep up to date in a printed document. It may be better to simply state a web page reference where it can be found.

Annex 2: AIM Task and Finish Group Glossary of Terms, Benefits Fact sheet, Useful Publications and other information

page 58

No comments.