



Newsletter

November 2015

DEAR ALL

Well, it has been quite a while since our last newsletter and since then we have seen lots of changes with the sector and within our team at DMA! Most importantly, I am delighted to say we have 2 new Directors, Jenny Anderton & Dave Atkinson, and several new associates and trainers to our team. These new additions bring contemporary practice and expertise to support commissioners and providers with a range of important issues relevant to children and adults with disabilities or mental health problems.



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Our other big news is that we will soon be launching the DMA Academy for continuing professional development. This new venture consolidates our past and current offerings of webinars, e-learning, workshops, conferences, networks and communities of practice and brings in new programmes to provide support to today's agenda. This agenda includes reducing health inequalities and we are proud that DMA will be working in partnership with the Health Equality Framework (HEF) Team and providing access to the tool and related materials and accredited training. Dave Atkinson, co-author of the HEF, will be leading this work stream and complementary projects across the UK.

At DMA our thinking and the way we work is underpinned by the principles of Appreciative Inquiry and we will be offering learning experiences to enable individuals and teams to use this approach for day to day, organisational and strategic issues.

Lastly, in response to demand, I am pleased to say we are currently refreshing and re-launching the popular Confirm and Challenge Model & Self Assessment Tool for Specialist Learning Disability in-patient provision (hospitals) and the version for Community Learning Disability Teams (CTLD's). The new version will take in the recent guidance and objectives relating to the Assuring Transformation programme and the need to reduce the use of hospital beds and provide care close to home.



As many of our readers and clients will be aware the Confirm & Challenge materials also underpin our independent investigations and quality assurance reviews of health and social and health care provision. Jenny Anderton (*pictured left*) will be leading on our assurance and compliance programmes and specifically, the involvement of people and families in checking the safety and quality of provision.

So, on behalf of the team, I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and we are pleased to re-engage with our membership both old and new!

Debra Moore

ASSURING TRANSFORMATION

So last week saw the publication of two important documents which signal significant changes to the way services are to be delivered to people with learning disabilities across England. Both documents were developed as part of the Transforming Care for People with Learning Disabilities programme, in response to continuing concerns about services' inability to deliver effective community support and consequent long term admissions to various types of hospitals.

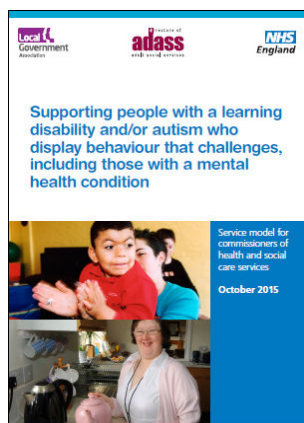


There is an overarching aim to ensure that people with autism or learning disabilities are not living in inappropriate inpatient units and are supported to live in community-based settings. The plans propose a reduction of up to 50% in the number of inpatient beds, with some units closing altogether. NHS England has allocated £45 million funding to support these changes.

[Building the right support](#) has been jointly by NHS England (NHSE), the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS). It is a national action three year plan which aims to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and lengthy hospital stays. Key changes include:

- Across England, 49 local transforming care partnerships (encompassing NHS bodies and local authorities, as well as experts by experience) will agree implementation plans by April 2016.
- Shared budgets between the NHS and local councils will aim to speed up discharges and make better use of resources to ensure services can be increased and improved.
- Remaining inpatient beds will be of higher quality, will be geographically closer to people's own homes and will ensure lengths of stay are as short as possible.
- NHSE will make available an extra £45million to support the transition process, with an expectation of substantial investment by commissioners across the country.

The national plan is supported by the new [service model](#) which provides more detailed guidance to commissioners of services across the country as to what the essential components of a good service are. The model describes the overarching, essential elements that should be replicated across England. It leaves scope however, for commissioners to make interpretations as to what precisely the complexion of services should look like within different localities. The model is essentially based around 9 overarching principles, and includes:



- providing more preventative care, with better identification of people at risk and early intervention
- empowering people with a learning disability and/or autism, for example, through the expansion of personal health budgets
- supporting families to care for their children at home, and the provision of high-quality social care with appropriate skills
- ensuring access to activities and services that enable people with a learning disability and/or autism to lead a fulfilling life (such as education, leisure)

- ensuring access to mainstream health services (including mainstream mental health services in the community)
- providing specialist multi-disciplinary support in the community

Throughout both documents there is a focus on recognition of needs, providing the right treatment and support and creating a life plan that can grow with people who use services, enabling them to develop control and achieve greater independence. The emphasis throughout is on effective, community based, proactive, planning and coordinated service delivery across disciplines and agencies.

Approximately 24,000 people in England have a learning disability and/or autism and are classed as being at risk of admission. Although the number of discharges or transfers increased last year, 2,595 people were in hospital settings in September 2015, more than three quarters of whom had been in 'hospital' for more than a year.

Hospital admission are typically indicative of the ability of community services to provide effective care and support to people with extremely complex needs. Any meaningful reduction in admissions will therefore require changes in the way that community services are delivered. It is clear that for the model to become operational, a real growth of knowledge and skills across the health and social care workforce will need to be accompanied by a genuine attitudinal shift.

We should be clear from the outset that this transformation will take time and investment. At the present time, we do not have a workforce who are equipped to deliver all the elements of the model. In no way should that be an argument not to press ahead with its implementation however strategic policy planners need to be clear from the outset that this programme will require a sustained, long term commitment.



Article by Dave Atkinson



DMA ACADEMY - Enabling you to be the best that you can be

We believe that organisations don't give excellent care, people do. Investment in learning for the people who use services, their families and those who serve them is vital. Our approach to personal development is strength based and appreciative, harnessing all the talents and celebrating achievement.

DMA Academy programme for learning and development includes training days, workshops and conferences as well as coaching and mentorship, to equip people with the skills to lead, transform and achieve real outcomes. Using blended learning opportunities including webinars and e-learning we able to tailor our delivery to meet your needs and circumstances.

All our lecturers, facilitators and trainers are advanced practitioners and recognised experts in their field, providing you with an assurance of quality.

NEWS & RESOURCES



Department
of Health

HEALTH SECRETARY outlines measures for greater patient power

On the 29th October the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, announced that from next year, for the first time, new 'Ofsted style' ratings will show patients how their local area's health service is performing in crucial areas, including mental health and learning disabilities. The new ratings, broken down by Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), will not only be based on local data but will also be verified by experts in each field.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-outlines-measures-for-greater-patient-power>

NURSE & MIDWIVES Revalidation update

On the 30.10.15 the NMC Chief Executive and Registrar, Jackie Smith warmly welcomed the confirmation from the Department of Health that England was ready for the implementation of revalidation from April 2016. You can find out more about Revalidation and resources to support the process on the NMC website at <http://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/revalidation/>



Mental Health
Foundation

GET THE FACTS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

To celebrate World Mental Health Day, the Mental Health Foundation published an excellent resource document – *Fundamental Facts about Mental Health*, which contains useful and succinct information. You can download the PDF for free from the website

<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/fundamental-facts-2015/>

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY: A new way of thinking and doing

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is central to all we do at DMA. We believe that whether you are supporting an individual or organisation it is crucial to discover what conditions they need to flourish, be vital and the best that they can be.

We apply this philosophy to all our work and confer a comprehensive range of interventions that includes:

- Strategy & business planning
- Service improvement & review
- Stakeholder engagement
- Team induction & building
- Coaching and mentorship



CONSULTATIONS



NATIONAL CARE STANDARDS Review

The Care Inspectorate is reviewing the overarching principles that will apply to all health and social care settings in Scotland. Consultation will take place until **10th December 2015**

For more information about how to participate visit <http://www.newcarestandards.scot>

REVISION of the Mental Health Act 1983 Code of Practice for Wales

Section 118 of the Mental Health Act 1983 requires Welsh Ministers to prepare, publish and periodically review. The new draft Code takes account of the changes to relevant legislation since the previous Code was written. In particular:



- the requirements in the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 with regards to care and treatment planning and the expanded provision of independent mental health advocacy
- the relationship between the Act, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

You can submit your views about the proposed additions and amendments to the Act **by the 27th November 2015** at <http://gov.wales/consultations/healthsocialcare/mental-health/?lang=en>

CONSULTATION on the roles and functions of the National Data Guardian



The National Data Guardian for health and social care will help to ensure that personal confidential data is held and used to support better outcomes from health and care services, at the same time providing confidence that there are thorough safeguards in place to protect personal confidential data. **Consultation closes 17 December 2015**

For more information <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-role-of-the-national-data-guardian-for-health-and-social-care>

CQC BUILDING on Strong Foundations

The deadline for sending feedback on the CQC strategy paper is the **22nd November 2015** so you still have time to respond if you wish to do so. The paper sets out the challenges CQC see and some of the choices that they face in responding. It reflects conversations with care providers, members of the public, professionals, stakeholders, CQC staff and commissioners, and more than 700 responses to an online survey.



You can find out more information here:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/public/about-us/our-performance-and-plans/our-strategy-and-business-plan>

EVENTS

DMA National Network Event for Learning Disability Nurses

17th December 2015
Palm Court Hotel at Scarborough

Don't miss details of the new HEF+ tool which will be launched at this event!
Early Booking Advised

[more details on our website](#)



CONFIRM AND CHALLENGE Self Assessment Tool

Version 3 of our popular Confirm & Challenge Self Assessment Tool for Specialist Learning Disability In-patient settings and for Community Learning Disability Teams will be available soon.

This tool helps commissioners and providers to assess quality and shape delivery to achieve the standards & outcomes expected to assure transformation and achieve regulatory compliance. If you would like to find out more about this tool, including implementation support opportunities, please email info@debramooreassociates.com

To find out more about the services we offer, [visit our website](#)

