



Southend Health and Wellbeing Board

Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat

Briefing Note

The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat is a national agreement between services and agencies involved in the care and support of people in crisis. It sets out how organisations will work together better to make sure that people get the help they need when they are having a mental health crisis.

It follows the refreshed mandate for NHS England, which includes a new requirement for the NHS that "every community has plans to ensure no one in mental health crisis will be turned away from health services".

The document sets out the principles and good practice that should be followed by professionals when working together to help people in crisis.

In February 2014, 22 national bodies involved in health, policing, social care, housing, local government and the third sector came together and signed the Crisis Care Concordat. It focuses on four main areas:

- Access to support before crisis point – making sure people with mental health problems can get help 24 hours a day and that when they ask for help, they are taken seriously.
- Urgent and emergency access to crisis care – making sure that a mental health crisis is treated with the same urgency as a physical health emergency.
- Quality of treatment and care when in crisis – making sure that people are treated with dignity and respect, in a therapeutic environment.
- Recovery and staying well – preventing future crises by making sure people are referred to appropriate services.

Although the Crisis Care Concordat focuses on the responses to acute mental health crises, it also includes a section on prevention and intervention. The Concordat builds on and does not replace existing guidance.

Although the Concordat has been signed at a national level, it now requires localised agreement. A Mental Health Oversight Board chaired by ACC Maurice Mason (Essex Police) has been set up to co-ordinate and assist partners in signing up to a single Essex wide declaration. This declaration was sent out to partners on the 7th November 2014 - with a deadline for localities to agree to support its strategic aims set for the 31st December 2014. As key stakeholders in the delivery of the concordat, the voluntary sector will also be approached to sign up.

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It is proposed that the Concordat in Essex will be formally launched, having been signed by all parties, at the annual PCC's conference on the 14th January 2015.

Once the declaration has been agreed, relevant agencies will need to develop area specific implementation plans. It is anticipated that in the Southend area, the Mental Health Commissioning Group would take the lead in terms of delivery.

In order to raise awareness and brief stakeholders appropriately, the Concordat is being presented at Health and Wellbeing Boards countywide. Board members are asked to note the contents of the concordat and consider the potential implications locally.

DCI Tom Simons

Essex Police

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