

Mental Health Network

Part of
THE NHS CONFEDERATION



National Mental Health
Development Unit

ACUTE CARE DECLARATION

Aiming to ensure that people with mental health problems, who are acutely ill, receive the services they need at the time of their greatest vulnerability.

Acute care pathway services are focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for people during times of mental health crisis. We know that the best acute mental health care plays a vital role in keeping people safe and helping them achieve recovery.

We know that many services achieve high quality care. We are committed to ensuring all acute mental health services achieve excellent care.

We are committed to ensuring equality of access to good quality acute care that is sensitive to spiritual and cultural needs for all sections of the community whatever their gender, age, mental health problem, disability, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

We declare that:

Good quality acute mental health services (inpatient and community) are essential and achievable.

We will work together to:

1) Further encourage the commissioning and provision of high quality acute care by developing:

- services which are safe for everyone in a context of positive, considered risk management in the least restrictive settings
- a culture of therapeutic optimism which supports recovery and personal responsibility
- a comprehensive range of well integrated and co-ordinated acute care services and

choice of effective treatment and care based on the best available evidence

- a safe, clean, comfortable and welcoming physical inpatient environment
- appropriate needs led provision for all age groups
- simple and timely access into and discharge out of inpatient services if care cannot be best delivered at home
- better mental and physical health and quality of life outcomes; and
- a service which shows respect for people who use acute mental health services and their families and carers; includes them as partners in care and provides support to families, friends and other informal care givers when needed.

2) Promote recovery and inclusion for people using acute mental health services.

People are part of their local communities, even when acutely ill. We will assist the development of services that are oriented to strengths and abilities and help people, who use acute mental health services, maintain participation in their local communities.

3) Support the development of a specialist acute care workforce.

We will work to ensure that good quality acute care services develop a specialist workforce of highly skilled staff with the right attitudes and skill mix.

4) Champion positive perceptions of acute care services.

We will achieve this by collectively addressing issues of exclusion and stigma and asserting the essential role both inpatient and community acute care services play within a whole system of care.

5) Support quality improvement, service development and research in acute care.

Promoting a culture of enquiry, innovation, and self- and peer-evaluation based on evidence, baseline data and regular service user and carer feedback.

This declaration is endorsed by:

