NHS Innovation Accelerator 2017 | Challenge 1: Mental Health

Why mental health?

For the second year running, mental health services have been identified as the top priority for citizens - with two thirds of the Healthwatch network reporting that their communities want it to be a core focus for improvement[1].

Mental health problems can affect anyone at any point in their lives and there are things we can do to make a difference including:

- Suicide and relapse **prevention**
- **Access and availability** with a focus on perinatal, children and young people, dementia and psychological therapies
- **Early identification and intervention** to minimise the impact on a person's life, the likelihood of escalation and, in some cases, the chances of survival
- **Care closer to home** including self-care and access to services at home, in a primary or community setting
- **Holistic care** of both mental and physical health needs including prevention, screening and treatment for those at greatest risk of poor physical health

> ### KEY FACTS
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> **One in four adults experience** at least one diagnosable mental health problem in any given year
>
> Mental health problems represent the **single biggest cause of disability** in the UK
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> **Physical healthcare costs 50% more** for type 2 diabetics with poor mental health
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> The cost to the economy is estimated **at £105 billion each year**
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> *Information from the NHS Five Year Forward View for Mental Health*

There are many innovations available to improve mental health services, however they are not always used, for example: one stop clinics, mobile-health platforms, new workforce models and predictive risk factor management.

Improving mental health services features as a priority within each of the country's 44 Sustainability and Transformation Plans[23] and is identified as one of the three main 2017/18 national service improvement priorities for the NHS in the Next Steps of the Five Year Forward View[4].

What mental health innovations are we seeking for the NHS Innovation Accelerator 2017?

We are seeking evidence-based innovations that ensure people at risk of, or experiencing mental health problems can rapidly access holistic, effective and convenient care and support.

Your innovation will need to:
- Enable the delivery of one or more of the priorities detailed within the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health[5] and the implementation plan[6].
- Have been co-designed with people (including carers, where appropriate) with lived experience of mental illness, be accessible to a diverse population[7] and focus on delivering the most significant benefit in terms of outcomes and cost savings.

Your innovation can be a device, digital app or platform, a service, process, pathway or model of care.

What impact does your innovation need to demonstrate?

An application for this category will require evidence on:
- **Health impact** e.g. numbers accessing treatment, reduced time to treatment, recovery rates, reduced suicides, physical health outcomes, a sustainable care model.
- **Utility** e.g. feedback from patients and professionals on accessibility and adherence.
- **Cost savings** e.g. reduced emergency admissions, reduced bed days, care in lower cost settings.

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[1] http://www.healthwatch.co.uk/news/healthwatch-network-reveals-public's-health-and-care-priorities-2017

[2] https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/stp-aide-memoire-mh-dementia.pdf

[3] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/507981/PM_Dementia-main_acc.pdf

[4] https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/NEXT-STEPS-ON-THE-NHS-FIVE-YEAR-FORWARD-VIEW.pdf

[5] https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Mental-Health-Taskforce-FYFV-final.pdf

[6] https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/fyfv-mh.pdf

[7] https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/b/black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-bame-communities