



PRESS STATEMENT

09 February 2016

Independent Commission report recognises urgent need for further investment in adult mental health inpatient services

Commenting on the [report](#) from the Independent Commission, led by Lord Nigel Crisp and supported by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, to review the provision of acute inpatient psychiatric care for adults in England, Saffron Cordery, director of policy and strategy, NHS Providers, said:

“We welcome today’s report. The Independent Commission has consulted extensively with mental health providers and recognised the excellent care across NHS mental health services, identifying many examples that offer best practice for expansion across the system. We also welcome the Commission’s recognition that NHS Providers has a key role to play in supporting our members in making the recommended improvements to help ensure access to acute mental healthcare becomes as timely as it is for physical healthcare.

“Our members have long been telling us about the crisis in beds and the need to ensure that people are not treated many miles from home. Improving quality in the provision of acute inpatient psychiatric care is not just about being able to access the right services, it’s also about being able to leave the care of services in a timely and supported fashion. The report’s focus on delayed transfers of care points to an area where quality and experience can be improved for individuals, and also demonstrates the extent to which mental health services are part of the whole health and care ecosystem. This was central to our independent [Right Place, Right Time Commission](#) on delayed transfers of care which also majored on mental health and complements much of today’s report.

“The report’s findings also clearly demonstrate that acute adult inpatient care must be considered as essential mental health services. This reflects what our members have consistently told us. Recommended targets for improving timely access go hand in hand with appropriate investment. For a sector that has had sustained underinvestment over a number of years, existing and additional funding is just the starting point to fill this gap, to support the implementation of standards and, crucially, to ensure that it actually reaches the frontline. Further investment is critical to delivering these recommendations whilst meeting increased demand particularly for access and waiting times. The report rightly calls for clear commitment from the Government to adequate resourcing.

“Receiving appropriate, high quality mental health care is the right of all patients and service users. We look forward to working with colleagues at every level - government, community, commissioner and provider – to ensure this ambition is achieved and we gain true parity of esteem between physical and mental health care.”

Read our [guest blog](#) by Lord Nigel Crisp

Ends

Notes to editors

About NHS Providers

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services
- NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate
- NHS Providers has more than 90% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership
- Follow NHS Providers on twitter @NHSPROVIDERS and Chris Hopson, chief executive, @ChrisCEOHopson
- A full list of NHS Providers' press releases and statements can be viewed in the news section of our homepage www.nhsproviders.org
- Contact Geethani Piyasena, media relations, 07711 376 267