



Policy Briefing:

National Assembly for Wales Plenary Debate 13 January 2015

‘Together for Mental Health’ Annual Report 2013-14

Hafal welcomes the Welsh Government’s second Annual Report on the implementation of the *Together for Mental Health* Strategy. It is an ambitious strategy, and along with the legislation set out in the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 sets the foundation for planning, developing and delivering better quality mental health services and improving the health of the people of Wales.

Feedback we have received from people who use mental health services shows that:

- Most people who use secondary mental health services now have a Care and Treatment Plan
- Some people feel more involved in the planning and delivery of their own care and treatment, although this is still not widespread or systematic across the whole of Wales
- The quality and usefulness of Care and Treatment Plans is variable across Wales, with many people having plans that are not fully focused on recovery or centred around people achieving both short term and long term goals/outcomes
- There still does not appear to be a system in place across Wales that measures overall recovery and to what extent people are achieving better outcomes
- There can be long delays in accessing treatment, which can result in a deterioration in someone’s condition between referral and assessment

We want to see the Welsh Government commit to:

- Delivering a fully integrated mental health service in Wales, built around co-production and the needs of people who use the service, and co-ordinated through the better use of Care and Treatment Plans
- Establishing a single integrated national performance framework across health and social care with a single outcomes framework for mental health services
- Tackling the professional, cultural and behavioural barriers to integrated care both within the NHS and between the NHS and local government
- Insisting on the use of Care and Treatment Plans, for people using secondary mental health services, as the central tool for delivering integrated services and driving up standards

- Protecting expenditure on mental health services, and ensuring greater cost efficiencies through earlier interventions and more community based services

We want to see Health Boards and local authorities commit to:

- Developing a single health and social care assessment process for people needing to access secondary mental health services
- Establish a single budget for mental health services across health and social care
- Reducing the inequalities in health and social care outcomes for people with a mental illness through a concerted and co-ordinated effort to increase people's physical health and mental wellbeing
- Clear, open and transparent recording of expenditure on mental health which is directly linked to outcomes

About Hafal

We are Wales' leading charity for people with serious mental illness and their carers. Covering all areas of Wales, Hafal is an organisation managed by the people we support: individuals whose lives have been affected by serious mental illness.

Underpinning our services to clients is our own unique Recovery Programme. Based on modern principles of self-management and empowerment, this programme offers clients a methodical way of achieving recovery by focusing on improving all areas of their life.

For further information on this briefing please contact **Peter Martin** on **01792 816600** or email peter.martin@hafal.org



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