

Sobus Mental Health Engagement and work

The Sobus led BAME Mental Health research report was published nearly a year ago. The impact of COVID has by most evidence increased the prevalence of mental health issues facing individuals and communities. The report has had an impact at strategic and local levels on trying to deliver a more community focussed, integrated and equitable services that addresses the needs of all individuals and communities who need mental health support.

Overview of some of the engagement opportunities and projects transforming mental health and support locally.

Hammersmith & Fulham

1. Strategic and local

H&F Mental Health Stakeholder Group – Involving LBH&F, West London NHS Trust, Local VCS organisations and residents. Open for all organisations and residents to share information and have input in the H&F Integrated Care Partnership whose aim is to improve mental health services in Hammersmith & Fulham. Sobus is keen to increase participation in the stakeholder by voluntary and community organisations and residents and is working closely West London NHS Trust and LBH&F to achieve this aim. Meeting are held fortnightly. Next meeting scheduled for 25th November

2. Voluntary Sector

Mental Health Equity Group

The Mental Health Equity Group is a BAME led group which was involved in producing the Mental Health research report [Bame Mental Health Report](#). Members include BAME organisations, Sobus and individuals with lived experience, as well as voluntary and community mental health organisations such as Hammersmith & Fulham, Ealing Mind and Richmond Fellowship. The focus of the work currently is based around the promotion and implementation of the recommendation in the research report.

HFE MIND

Mind has this year launched their new project Safe Space initiative which provides support at a point of crisis and is also designed to be more accessible for local people. For more info on the Safe Space service please [click here](#)

Sub regional work

MINT (Mental Health Integrated Network Teams) led by West London NHS Trust involving partners across the three boroughs. West London NHS Trust - the main provider of mental health services in the three west London boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham, Ealing and Hounslow. These network Meetings are held quarterly and offer an opportunity to network and learn of initiatives across the three boroughs.

The vision shared by MINT which guides is outlined below:

The vision: The NHS Long Term Plan states that local areas will be “supported to redesign and reorganise core community and mental health teams to move towards a new place-based multi-disciplinary service across health and social care, aligned with Primary Care Networks.” Working alongside primary care, the voluntary sector and other partner organisations, Mental Health Integrated Network Teams (MINT) will deliver a “new community-based offer [that] will include access to psychological therapies, improved physical healthcare, employment support, personal and trauma-informed care, medicines management, support for self-harm and co-existing substance use, and proactive work to address racial disparities.”

The aim: To create a flexible, proactive and holistic model of community-based mental health care for people with moderate to severe mental illness across a range of diagnoses and needs, as outlined in the Community Mental Health Framework.

Summary

H&F Integrated Care Partnership is a partnership between statutory Health service providers, the local authority, the voluntary and community sector and residents representatives working towards transforming mental health services to a more community and patient focussed delivery model.

Whilst there are commitments and work is being undertaken towards transforming mental health services locally, there still remain significant challenges in achieving this aim. These revolve around whether the voluntary and Community sector can really have equal partnership status, the accessibility of services, particularly for marginalised communities but also around pathways of engagement, information, inclusivity and culturally sensitivity and appropriateness of current services. These are challenges that the ICP partners are aware of and working towards addressing.

If you want more information, or are interested in supporting, engaging, or participating in any of the above work please contact shad.haibatan@sobus.org.uk