

Royal College of Psychiatrists Consultation Response



DATE: 31 Jan 2011

RESPONSE OF: THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

RESPONSE TO: The DH Business Plan 2011-15. Consultation on the Transparency framework

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is the leading medical authority on mental health in the United Kingdom and is the professional and educational organisation for doctors specialising in psychiatry.

We are pleased to respond to this consultation. This consultation was prepared by Richard Meier at the College Policy Unit.

This consultation was approved by: Dr Laurence Mynors-Wallis- Registrar

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The Department of Health Business Plan 2011-15: Consultation on the Transparency framework

Question 1: In bringing together the high level outcomes from the three separate outcomes frameworks, have we ended up with a coherent set of indicators that gives a helpful overview of our performance?

The College welcomes the emphasis placed in the Business Plan's indicators on overall mortality given how poorly people with severe mental illness fare in this regard (it is estimated that people with severe mental illness die around 20 years prematurely on average compared to those without).

However, we are concerned that both of the proposed indicators (Differences in how long the best and worst off people can expect to live/to live without major health problems & Babies born at a healthy birth weight) for the first domain (Improving population health and tackling health inequalities) relate solely to physical health.

In the *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Transparency in Outcomes – Proposals for a Public Health Outcomes Framework* consultation though these two indicators are listed under the 'Vision', with the aim: "To improve and protect the nation's health and well-being and to improve the health of the poorest, fastest".

The College feels that the two proposed indicators will not enable DH to judge its performance on improving the protecting the nation's well-being since they do not relate in any way to well-being.

The College believes that a third indicator is required in order for the Department to be able to gauge how well or otherwise the nation's well-being is being improved.

The College also feels that the proposed indicators (People's experience of GP services, People's experience of being in hospital & Satisfaction with social care services) fall short of providing DH with the means of judging its performance on the fifth domain (Ensuring people have a positive experience of care) as it does not capture the experience of people who receive secondary healthcare services in community settings.

The College therefore proposes that a third indicator be introduced, namely 'People's experience of community-based secondary healthcare services'.

Question 3: Are the data systems in place to ensure the information provided is accurate, timely and robust and quality is fit for purpose?

In order to measure outcomes meaningfully at a range of levels including doctor/patient consultation and high level population levels, the Department of Health should, the College feels, invest significant sums of money to ensure that the necessary systems to collect and ensure validity of data are in place.

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