

# **General Adult Psychiatry Faculty Spring Conference**

**16 March 2021**

**Dr Adrian James, President, Royal College of Psychiatrists  
2020-23**

# About me

- **47<sup>th</sup> President** after winning the Presidential Election at the start of 2020.
- A **Forensic Psychiatrist** and front-line clinician for 36 years, served as the College Registrar for the previous 5 years
- My **priorities** as President are:
  - Equity between physical and mental health
  - Championing diversity
  - Supporting the workforce
  - Sustainability at the heart of all we do

# Equity between physical and mental health



# Equity between physical and mental health

- To ensure every person with a mental illness has timely access to a flexible, integrated, adequately staffed and responsive health service.
- Calling for the continued expansion in access to mental health services.
- College value of **'Courage'** explicitly refers to the need to promote parity of esteem.
- Committed to advancing the move to parity **across the world.**

# Championing diversity



# Championing diversity

- Improving outcomes and access to services, particularly Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority communities, at the centre of all College business.
- **No quality without equality:** supporting those working in services to rapidly respond to and deliver change that works for all patients
- **Supporting staff:** mechanisms to address inequalities to be included within work plans and ensure BAME staff are supported.

# Championing diversity

- Two newly appointed Race Equality Presidential Leads:
  - Dr Shubulade Smith CBE
  - Dr Rajesh Mohan
- Key responsibilities :
  - Feed into College's **Equality Strategy**.
  - Promote the recommendations in the RCPsych position statement on Racism and Mental Health.
  - Advise Council, Trustees and Senior Management team on effective options for 3 year strategy.



# Supporting the workforce

**CHOOSE  
TO  
UNDERSTAND**





# Supporting the workforce

- Improve the **retention and wellbeing** of frontline psychiatrists, as well as their wider multi-disciplinary teams.
- Create **supportive working environments** essential to delivering high quality care.
- Development of a **Workforce Strategy** giving clear direction to recruit and retain a psychiatric workforce leading to sustainable services for patients.
- Addressing the current challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Sustainability at the heart of all we do



# Sustainability at the heart of all we do

- Developing a sustainable College response to the **climate emergency** and **ecological crisis**.
- Supporting the delivery of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**.
- Help members and mental health services better understand the impact of sustainability and the climate crisis on mental health.
- College has convened **7 roundtables** across key themes bringing together experts in the field of health and climate and ecological emergency (CEE).

# Welcoming new Executive Committee members

- Elected by ballot:
  - Dr Tim Alnuamaani
  - Dr Jeya Balakrishna
  - Dr Mosun Fapohunda
  - Dr Joanne Farrow
  - Dr Mudasir Firdosi
  - Professor Sonia Johnson
  - Dr Clare Louise Morgans
  - Dr Joan Rutherford



# Community Mental Health Framework: New implementation Guidance

- Place-based integrated **support, care and treatment in the community** for people with mental health problems whatever their level of need, including those with more complex need.
- More and higher-quality care to be provided at a local ('neighbourhood') community level by making **better use of resources** including community assets.
- Dissolving the **barriers** that currently exist between:
  - Mental health and physical health;
  - Health, social care, voluntary and community social enterprise (VCSE) organisations and local communities;
  - Primary and secondary care.

# Community Mental Health Framework: New implementation Guidance

- A **core community mental health service**. The central functions of the team will involve:
  - Assessment (and advice or brief treatments)
  - Specific psychological and pharmacological interventions (and care planning and coordination)
  - Support to access community assets.
- Implementation and evaluation of the framework requires the routine collection of **good-quality outcomes data**.
- The framework will **help local systems address inequalities** in mental health care.
- Includes a method for coordinating and planning care that will replace the Care Programme Approach.
  - Who may need to be involved in the coordination and planning of care for people depending on the complexity of their needs.

# Key opportunities: Launch of the MHA White paper

- Launched in **January**.
- Builds on **Sir Simon Wessely's** recommendations in 2018.
- The Government's proposed reforms aim to:
  - tackle the racial disparities in mental health services,
  - better meet the needs of people with learning disabilities and autism
  - ensure appropriate care for people with SMI within the criminal justice system
- Consulting with members on how the changes will work on the ground.

# Key opportunities: NHS reforms

- ICSs as statutory bodies
- Closer working with local government and other partners
- Implementation in 2022 across England





# Ongoing and future work



- Ensuring that people with SMI and intellectual disabilities are not forgotten in the allocation of **COVID-19 vaccines**.
- Written to the **JCVI** and discussed with the **Secretary of State** how:
  - These groups are at an elevated risk of morbidity and mortality
  - inpatients and residential settings are high-risk environments for these patients.
- In December we were able to ensure that our recommendation that adults with severe mental illness or a severe or profound learning disability were included in **Cohort 6**.