



What members are saying

"The ACOMHS review has helped us develop as a team not only through the review process and report but also through raising our awareness of good practice in other teams and the training and networking opportunities ACOMHS provide. We would strongly encourage other teams to take the plunge and get reviewed."

South Hackney Recovery Team

"I very much enjoy meeting the patients and carers and talking to them about their experiences of the services. This service also supports both patients and carers to articulate their views and to participate in improving and shaping the service by employing peer support workers, a system which seems to be highly effective."

Mary Rodgers, Carer Rep

Costs:

Member services pay an annual fee of £2,000 + VAT, with a 10% discount available for 3- year membership (£5,400+VAT). The college is a non-profit organisation, therefore the programme is funded by subscriptions. The money is reabsorbed into the programme development.

Find out more

To learn more about **ACOMHS**, please visit:

www.rcpsych.ac.uk/ACOMHS

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Royal College of Psychiatrists' Centre for Quality Improvement

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ACOMHS
ACCREDITATION FOR COMMUNITY
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES





What is the Accreditation for Community Mental Health Services (ACOMHS) programme?

The Accreditation for Community Mental Health Services (**ACOMHS**) programme works with services to assure and improve the quality of community mental health services for adults with mental health problems. Our approach is about engagement and support, with emphasis on facilitating improvement.

We involve and listen to the people on the frontline, including staff from all professional backgrounds. We believe involving service users and carers is a priority, and encourage people with firsthand experience of using community mental health services to get involved in all stages of the accreditation process.

It engages staff and people with direct experience of using community mental health services in a comprehensive process of review, through which good practice and high quality care are recognised. Services are supported to identify and address areas for improvement.

Accreditation assures staff, service users and carers, commissioners and regulators of the quality of the service being provided.

ACOMHS is an initiative of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Centre for Quality Improvement.

How we help services

Our accreditation process supports services to evaluate their performance, and improve their practice through:

- **Self-review** of their service
- **Peer review** identifying and discussing challenges with the visiting reviewers
- **A detailed service report** recognising areas of achievement and suggesting approaches to improvement
- **A regular report of national findings** identifying trends and enabling benchmarking with other services
- **Sharing good practice** through our:
 - Annual Forum and other learning events
 - Email discussion groups
 - Newsletters
 - Publication of resources
- **Personal development** of staff through training in peer reviewing, visiting other services and participating in wider project development activities across the UK, such as:
 - Accreditation Committee
 - Advisory Group
 - Standards Revision Group
 - Speaking at Special interest days



Outcomes for services

- Services are able to **demonstrate the quality of care** they provide to service users and carers, their wider organisation and commissioners
- Services are able to **demonstrate that they meet national standards**, such as NICE guidance
- Our process helps to build **dialogue with referrers, partner agencies and commissioners**
- Our standards and accreditation process can provide a **framework to monitor contracts and develop service level agreements**
- Information from the accreditation process **can be used in Trust quality accounts**, as recommended by the National Quality Board.
- Ongoing support is provided to engage services in continuous quality improvement
- **Learning and innovations are often spread beyond the participating service** to other services within the Trust