



Rethink
Mental
Illness.

Community Mental Health Progress Evaluation Programme

Supporting collaboration, coproduction and
community engagement in mental health
systems and partnerships

rethink.org

© Rethink Mental Illness. Material only to be used with permission of Rethink Mental Illness



Rethink Mental Illness

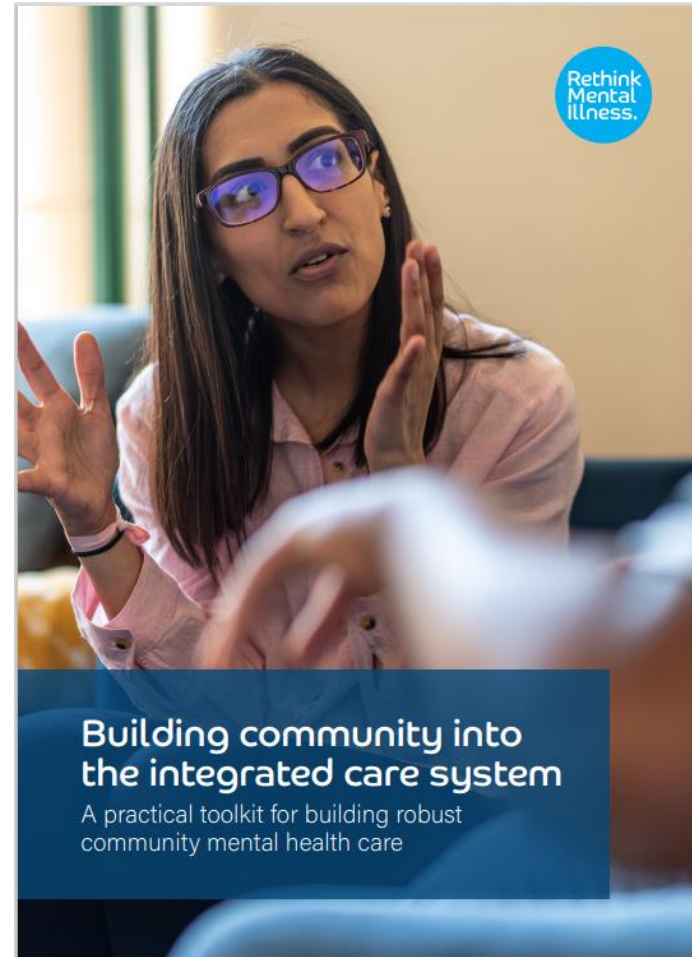
We improve the lives of people severely affected by mental illness through our network of local groups and services, expert information and successful campaigning. Our goal is to make sure everyone severely affected by mental illness has a good quality of life. People with experience of mental illness, and those who care for them, are at the heart of everything we do.

Our Community Mental Health Unit was established to provide advice and expert knowledge to support systems in transforming community health care. It has brought together expertise in community engagement, coproduction, operations, alliance-building and policy and practice to accelerate transformation in multiple places across the country.

Building community into the Integrated Care System

We bring together national and local transformation insights and in September 2023 we published '[Building community into the Integrated Care System; A practical guide to developing robust community mental health](#)', which:

- Summarises the significant challenges facing mental health care.
- Provides a toolkit of practical, workable solutions to common barriers to transformation.
- Explores the role that the VCSE sector can have in pursuing the four core aims and future goals of ICSs.





Overview and context

Over the last three years there has been significant funding made available for Community Mental Health Transformation, a key part of the NHS Long Term Plan. It is even more vital than ever to build on this momentum to ensure that mental health partnerships and systems are set up to enable people to access the care they need in and from their community.

Through our long-term work in Somerset, Sheffield, Coventry and Warwickshire, North East Lincolnshire, Tower Hamlets and Cheshire and Wirral, we have seen the impact transformation can have when it is developed and delivered by the whole of the mental health system (NHS, Local Authority, VCSE) and is coproduced with Experts by Experience.



Community Mental Health Progress Evaluation Programme

The Community Mental Health Progress Evaluation Programme is a three-month review and assessment service for your mental health organisation, partnership or system that enables you to identify key strengths and weaknesses of your mental health provision against the objectives of the NHS Long Term Plan.

We collect insights from key stakeholders across the system through interviews and community listening events, as well as reviewing relevant literature such as policies, strategies and plans pertaining to mental health.

At the end of the programme, we provide a report and presentation detailing our findings and recommendations in areas of focus that provide the building blocks for successful and meaningful transformation of mental health systems within an ICB footprint.

Rethink Mental Illness.

The Community Mental Health Progress Evaluation Programme can build on results from our [Self-Assessment Assurance Framework](#), providing a deeper dive into understanding the progress of transformation in your system and delivering a more tailored review of its current status.

Following the programme, we can develop a longer-term plan of partnership working based on your report's recommendations, with Rethink Mental Illness delivering outputs and outcomes to help establish a more effective and sustainable model for community mental health in your area.





What are the themes?

The areas of focus follow the five key themes in our Self-Assessment Assurance Framework and our recent publication *Building Community into the Integrated Care System*, which are:

1. Context relating to mental health across your system
2. Purpose with respect to mental health outcomes in your system
3. Methods with respect to mental health prevention, early intervention, treatment and wider determinants of mental health
4. How to work in partnership with the VCSE sector to design and deliver treatment and prevention
5. Resourcing and funding principles when it comes to working with the VCSE sector regarding mental health



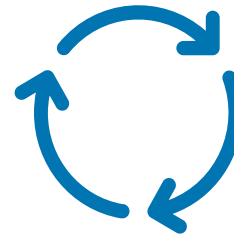
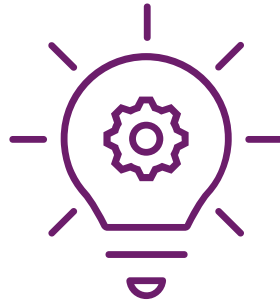
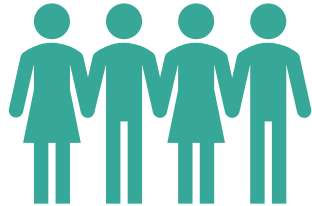
What are the areas of focus?

Within these themes we will assess current strengths and weaknesses of the system across a range of aspects of community mental health including:

- Coproduction and Community Engagement
- VCSE and Alliance Building
- Asset Mapping
- Integrated Delivery
- Partnership with Local Authority
- Contracting and Funding
- Data and Reporting: Measuring Outcomes and Impact



Lines of enquiry



Spaces

Forums, groups, networks, seats on boards, roles (with funding)

Relationships

Partnerships within the community, VCSE, LA & NHS

Understanding

Coproduction, partnered working, Experts by Experience

Process

Feedback-loop, comms, strategy, vision, frameworks (incl. PCREF), values, objectives

Impact

Evidence of change, reports, data, stories

Our process

Kick Off

- Kick Off meeting with key NHS project leads, discuss initial priorities.

Literature Review

- Collate literature (plans, policies, strategies) relevant to community mental health
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of current plans, themes and areas to target

Stakeholder & Community Engagement

- Meetings & interviews with key system leads; NHS, LA, coproduction leads etc.
- Outreach, planning, delivery and debrief of community engagement workshops/ listening events

Outcome Planning

- Meeting project leads to discuss emerging themes, areas for further engagement
- Collate feedback into report

Final Report

- Following draft, sharing report with project leads
- Presentation to stakeholders and contributors to complete feedback loop

Next Steps

- Debrief meeting with project leads following final report and presentation
- Discussion of future engagement and longer-term partnered working on areas for improvement identified in report



Rethink
Mental
Illness.

We can support
Community Mental
Health Transformation
in your area.

To find out more, please email us
at CMHFSupport@rethink.org