

Reforming the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services to Improve Outcomes for People

Background

1. Our work around reforming the delivery of mental health services in response to Derek Barron's independent review is centred around enabling improvements for people experiencing services and it is important that their views are authentically represented in this work.
2. The Scottish Government set up a Short Life Working Group (SLWG) to consider the best way to bring forward the changes needed to improve how Forensic Mental Health Services (FMHS) are planned and to help the range of authorities and organisations work better together in this planning. The SLWG is concentrating on Mr Barron's Recommendation One from his report around creating a single system. The outcome of the work of this group will be important to how the rest of the Barron Report proceeds.
3. It is planned that the work of the SLWG around Recommendation One will conclude by Summer 2022, following which, we will be in a position to seek views from Scottish Ministers around an implementation plan.

How Can Advocacy Services Help Now?

4. We are committed to ensuring that what people told Barron during his review and what matters to people is protected in any implementation. Derek Barron achieved good reach during his review; meeting with a diverse range of people, including those with lived experience. Mr Barron heard a range of examples of people being delayed in their transition through their care pathway and of varying experiences dependent upon their home area.
5. We have been exploring the most effective and safe way to integrate the views of people with living experience and how to best reflect their experiences in our work. We are cognisant and conscious of ensuring people's welfare and would always design engagements with that in mind.
6. We propose to incorporate the voice of lived experience into our work in various ways and are keen that mentors; peer networks and advocacy groups play a key role in all engagements.
7. A forthcoming engagement activity is planned for 24 June, 9.30am - 1.00 pm where a short list of options in response to Recommendation One from the Barron Report will be examined. Currently around 60 stakeholders, with a forensic mental health service background have engaged with the work we are leading on the Barron Report and we are keen that this stakeholder population is further diversified for attendance at this planned June event.



8. In addition, we would like to establish a [Learning from Experience Focus Group](#) where advocacy; carers and patient group representatives engaged with the Barron Report work.
9. We would be delighted to hear views from Advocacy Groups of how the work of the Barron Report can best implement the authentic voice of people with lived experience.
10. Our suggestions are that nominations be made for:
 - a. attendance at our forthcoming Reform of Forensic Mental Health Services Stakeholder Workshop in June and
 - b. for membership of a Learned Experience of Forensic Mental Health Services in Scotland Focus Group.

We are most grateful for your help.

Scottish Government

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