



Spending on adult mental health services in England

An update of the calculations featured in 'Delivering the Government's Mental Health Policies' (published in January 2007)

In early 2007, Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health published an analysis of the services, staffing and spending needed to deliver the Government's policies on adult mental health services, organised around the seven standards of care specified in the National Service Framework (NSF) for mental health (Boardman and Parsonage, 2007). In line with the planned 10-year timescale for implementation of the NSF, the analysis identified the services, with associated staffing and spending requirements that should be available in 2010/11.

The assessment indicated that, to deliver the NSF and related policies in full, aggregate expenditure on adult mental health services would need to increase in real terms (i.e. after allowing for general inflation) from £4,904 million in 2005/06 (used as the base year in the analysis) to £7,488 million in 2010/11. This represents an overall rise of 52.7 per cent, equivalent to an average increase of 8.8 per cent a year. In comparison, between 1999/2000 and 2005/06 spending on adult mental health care grew by an average of 6.7 per cent a year.

Since the Sainsbury Centre report was published, figures have become available on actual spending in 2006/07 and 2007/08 (Mental Health Strategies, 2007; 2008). These show that expenditure on adult mental health services increased by just 2.3 per cent in real

terms between 2005/06 and 2006/07 and by 3.7 per cent between 2005/06 and 2007/08. These increases are well below the average rise of 6.7 per cent a year that was recorded between 1999/2000 and 2005/06 and even further below the average rise of 8.8 per cent a year that is needed between 2005/06 and 2010/11 for full implementation of the Government's current mental health policies.

Allowing for the increases just described, expenditure on adult mental health services in 2007/08 amounted to £5,206 million, measured in 2005/06 prices.

Looking ahead, the Government's Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review of October 2007 included detailed spending plans for all major public expenditure programmes including the NHS and social services, covering the three financial years 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 (HM Treasury, 2007). Total spending on the NHS is planned to increase at an average rate of 4.1 per cent a year in real terms and spending on local authority social services at 2.1 per cent a year.

Assuming that the share of mental health in both programmes remains constant, and also taking into account that current spending on adult mental health services divides roughly 80:20 between the NHS and social services, it

can be calculated that expenditure on mental health care is likely to increase by around 3.7 per cent a year in real terms over the three years covered by current public spending plans.

On this basis, spending on adult mental health services is forecast to reach £5,806 million in 2010/11, again measured in 2005/06 prices. This is some way short of the figure of £7,488 million quoted above as the estimated level of spending which is needed to deliver the NSF and related policies in full (Boardman and Parsonage, 2007). Overall, our assessment suggests that by 2010/11 funded capacity for adult mental health care is likely to be around 77.5 per cent of its required or target level.

References

Boardman, J. and Parsonage, M. (2007) Delivering the Government's Mental Health Policies: Services, staffing and costs. London: Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health. [see right]

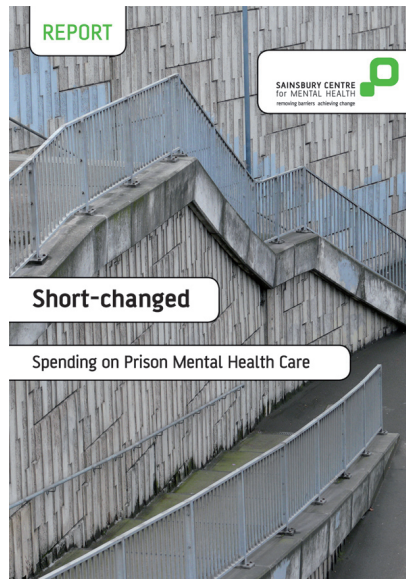
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Short-changed

Spending on Prison Mental Health Care

Short-changed, produced together with Lincoln University, shows that prison inreach teams get £300 in funding for every prisoner in England. This is only about one-third of what they need to offer the same level of service as community mental health services.

Short-changed finds that there is wide variation in funding for prison mental health care which cannot be explained by higher costs or different needs between regions.

Some 4,700 prisoners now get support from inreach teams. But this is much less than the estimated one in twelve prisoners who has severe mental health problems.

Short-changed is free to download from www.scmh.org.uk.