

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY

into Mental Health
Services in Tayside

Terms of Reference

Purpose

To inquire into the accessibility, safety, quality and standards of care provided by all Mental Health Services in Tayside, report on the findings and make recommendations for improvement.

Scope

The scope of the Independent Inquiry will incorporate a review of end-to-end service pathways covering all mental health services delivered to Adults, and also those delivered as part of the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

The Inquiry will focus on inpatient, outpatient and community mental healthcare, extending to third sector agencies primary care and community services as appropriate.

Principles

The Inquiry will look at end-to-end services and has the following five guiding principles:

1. Be open and transparent
2. Include and involve staff from NHS Tayside, its partners and third sector providers
3. Include and involve patients, their families and carers
4. Be truly independent
5. Include a public call for evidence to ensure everyone's voice is heard

The Inquiry will provide both opportunity and support to all those who engage with its investigations, to enable them to observe the process and give evidence as appropriate.

The Inquiry will expect to receive cooperation from staff, reflecting the professional duty of candour.

The Inquiry will have full access to all the material it seeks.

Focus

The Independent Inquiry will:

- Examine the accessibility, safety and quality of the current standards of care provided by mental health services in Tayside and where necessary make recommendations for improvements, regardless of cost.
- Consider whether mental health services in Tayside appropriately and adequately meet the needs of people with mental ill health or who are at risk of suicide, taking expert advice to assist with the understanding of current best practices.
- Consider information from all published and unpublished reviews, inspection reports and investigations, including but not limited to those from *Healthcare Improvement Scotland*, the *Mental Welfare Commission*, Fatal Accident Inquiries, Local Adverse Event Reports and reports and recommendations from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.
- Consider the perspective and give voice to families, patients, carers and others who have experience of suicide or involvement with mental health services within Tayside.
- Consider the perspective and evidence of people who are engaged in the provision of mental health services within Tayside and to create opportunities for staff engagement and reflective practice.

- Work in partnership with the Stakeholder Participation Group to facilitate the involvement and engagement of the agreed range of stakeholders
- Work in partnership with the Employee Participation Group (which includes clinical, non-clinical, managerial and others) to facilitate the engagement of all relevant staff.
- Undertake a public call for evidence, ensuring the widest possible opportunities are given to allow people to provide their evidence in a sensitive manner.
- Consider and evaluate current improvement plans, ensuring any such plan adequately takes account of the opinions of the staff working within mental health services in Tayside including students on placement within the facilities.
- Consider and evaluate current improvement plans, ensuring any such plan adequately takes account of the opinions of patients, families and carers in relation to the quality of care within mental health services in Tayside.
- Investigate whether an appropriate level of risk management (both strategic and operational) is in place for all aspects of mental health services in Tayside.
- Ensure sensitive information (such as care plans and comparative statistical data) will be used as evidence in the Inquiry only if considered appropriate to do so, and with due regard to confidentiality undertakings.
- Examine the stigma associated with mental health issues and consider how this can be addressed across the mental health services in Tayside and beyond.

Specific Terms and Conditions

The Independent Inquiry will:

- Be led by an Independent Chair
- Conduct its work in as transparent a manner possible, consistent with the effective investigation of the matters falling within the terms of reference, and having regard to all duty of confidentiality, consistent with Caldicott Guardian principles
- Be supported by an independent Secretariat function provided by the University of Dundee - including a Secretary to the Inquiry, further secretarial support, research officers and others as required.
- Ensure that all who engage with the Inquiry are supported to do so and are treated with dignity and respect throughout.
- Receive professional advice and guidance from independent mental health advisors outwith Tayside.
- Comply with all legislative requirements to protect the personal data of any person contributing to its work.
- Disclose where appropriate and within the requirements of Data Protection Legislation, any documentation relevant to the outcome of the Inquiry.
- Provide interim reports as appropriate.
- Offer briefings to interested parties such as Stakeholder Participation Group, the Employee Participation Group and elected members.
- Produce a publically available report, including recommendations for improvement at its conclusion.



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