

# Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Community Mental Health Transformation Newsletter

FEB  
2023

Welcome to this latest newsletter for the [Community Mental Health Transformation programme](#), which is delivered by the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board (ICB), NHS mental health providers (Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust), primary care services, local authorities, and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations.



## Aim of the newsletter

We will be regularly updating you on the key developments and news from this programme, which seeks to transform the ways in which adult community mental health care and support is provided across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. To find out more about the Community Mental Health Transformation, NHS England has created a short animation, which you can watch [here](#).





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# Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Co-delivery

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Each month we're focusing on a different workstream within the programme, and for this edition it's service user involvement.

Involving people who use our services, and their carers in decision-making is a key part of the Community Mental Health Transformation.

Including people with lived experience in decision making, provides us with a different perspective into our work, giving us an opportunity to learn, develop and create positive change within our services.

Let's  
Grow  
Together

Service user participation and co-production doesn't just benefit us; it positively impacts the people who access our services, alongside their carers. We spoke to a number of people with lived experience involved in Community Mental Health Transformation at Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT), and North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust (NSCHT) to find out how involvement has impacted them.

Those we spoke to have been involved in a number of ways, including helping to improve the physical environment of the wards, directly impacting who each Trust recruits and influencing positive change. This in turn has benefited them by boosting self-esteem, and helping to make their life during recovery more fulfilling, and their work has improved how mental health services are delivered for everyone, as well as themselves. To find out more about involvement and co-production from a service user and carer perspective, you can listen to a podcast by clicking either:

- [MPFT's Podcast](#); or
- [NSCHT's Combinations Podcast](#)





## £161,000 available to voluntary and community organisations in new grant round

Community and voluntary groups in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are being invited to apply for a new round of grants, with a specific focus on supporting organisations who work with young people (16-25) with severe mental illness.

Organisations have until 24 February to apply for grants of up to £20,000 to support and help young adults with mental health issues across the county. A total of £161,000 has been made available across the county in round 2 of the grant scheme.

The scheme is being managed by The Community Foundation for Staffordshire on behalf of North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust (NSCHT) and Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) as part of the Community Mental Health Transformation programme. The Community Foundation is a specialist local fund manager who administer programmes for local authorities, philanthropists, and business across the county. Their local knowledge of the voluntary and community sector will ensure the grant funding will go exactly where it is needed.

Steve Adams, Chief Executive of The Community Foundation said: "The rising prices during this cost of living crisis are having a severe effect on community and voluntary groups supporting adults with severe mental illness. We distributed £900,000 worth of grants last year to the same sector of society and saw the impact it made. This additional round of grants will have a further positive impact in a short space of time."

Liz Mellor, Director of Strategy and Partnerships for NSCHT said: "Following the success of round one of the grant scheme, and over £96,000 being awarded in grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in North Staffordshire, Combined Healthcare is delighted that a further scheme is open for the VCSE sector to apply to."

Liz added: "The grant programme gives us even more chance to join up with local organisations and support the delivery of inclusive, accessible and responsive services to support young adults with severe mental illness, as part of the Community Mental Health Transformation programme."

Lisa Agell-Argiles, Director for Unplanned Care and Mental Health for MPFT said: "Delivering successful programmes to support adults and older adults with mental health issues is so important to make a better society.

"Through the Community Mental Health Transformation programme for Adults and Older Adults, NHS community mental health services are working together in a seamless way, with users central to service provision because they are much more involved in their own care and support. After the success of the grants last year, I'm delighted that together with the Community Foundation for Staffordshire we have additional grants available that will make a difference during a difficult time."

For further information click [here](#).





## An introduction to the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme Mental Health Team

The Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) Mental Health Team is a relatively new service within North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare (NSCHT) that has been operating within primary care for almost two years, and forms part of the Community Mental Health Transformation programme.

The team are responsible for delivering timely access to an integrated, high quality, patient-centred service that enables people with mental health needs and/ or social care problems to improve general wellbeing, with the aim of preventing, reducing or delaying the need for more specialist/ secondary services.

The service supports 13 Primary Care Networks (PCNs) – covering a total of 71 GP practices across the Trust area with a Mental Health Practitioner (MHP) assigned to each PCN. As well as MHPs, the team also has 10 Support Time and Recovery Workers, who work alongside MHPs to provide a recovery focussed approach to the mental health support that is offered.

This new level of service provides GPs with a dedicated in-house mental health resource, with an expert knowledge and access to further Trust services to ensure patients are able to receive care and support in the right place and at the right time. Patients benefit by having access to support in a location in which they are familiar, while for the Trust this works to reduce pressures on access and other services.

As well as mental health input the team work closely with other members of the wider practice team, including Social Prescribers, and Health and Wellbeing Practitioners to deliver a multi-disciplinary approach.

Chris Deaville, Mental Health Practitioner with the ARRS Team at NSCHT explains: "We aim to provide a smoother pathway for people, and a trusted assessment so that we can see patients in a primary care setting and signpost them to the support they need or make any necessary onward referrals."

To hear from some colleagues who work within the AARS Mental Health Team, please watch the video by clicking [here](#).



## Combined Healthcare and VSCE Partners: Changes Health and Wellbeing

In the first of three introductions to voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) partners North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust works with through the transformation programme, we welcome Changes Health and Wellbeing. A video featuring Chief Executive Dave Wheat, Senior Peer Recovery Coach Klaudia Lepska, and Future Focus Services Manager Carolyn Mason focuses on the role they play at Changes and how they support service users.

To watch the video, click the link [here](#).

For more information on the service, visit [www.changes.org.uk](http://www.changes.org.uk).



# LATEST NEWS

## MPFT's service user participation and co-production campaign is RELAUNCHING



### Why is service user participation and co-production important?

Service user participation and co-production benefits staff, service users and their carers. Involving people with lived experience in this way provides a different perspective into how services are provided, giving an opportunity to learn, develop and create positive change within the services Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) provides.



### People with lived experience can participate in the following ways:

- Bring a lived experience perspective to represent people who use services and their carers
- Change how the Trust communicates and engages with people
- Being involved in designing services
- Help recruit the right staff to help you
- Planning and delivering workshops

Service users and their carers can get involved by picking up one of MPFT's leaflets, which will signpost to an online form, or emailing [MHTransformation@mpft.nhs.uk](mailto:MHTransformation@mpft.nhs.uk).

# LATEST NEWS

## Lived Experience Community Mental Health Transformation Forum – new group

Are you someone who is living with mental health struggles, or caring for someone who does – or someone who is waiting for support?

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) want to hear about your experience of mental health services in Southern Staffordshire so that it can improve and maintain services and practices.

The Trust will be holding monthly workshops via Microsoft Teams that will focus on a number of different topics such as:

- Carers
- Digital competencies/ virtual consultations
- Support groups
- Care planning
- Medication



There are lots of ways to get involved with the transformation - whether you can give a little or a lot of time. If you would like to know more, please contact [fiona.moore@mpft.nhs.uk](mailto:fiona.moore@mpft.nhs.uk) for Southern Staffordshire, or [veronica.emlyn@combined.nhs.uk](mailto:veronica.emlyn@combined.nhs.uk) for North Staffordshire.

## Recruitment

Keep an eye on both North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust and Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's recruitment web pages if you're interested in any forthcoming opportunities.

For Combined Healthcare roles, please visit the link [here](#) and for MPFT roles, please click the link [here](#).



# Where to find more information

There's lots of work going on to transform community mental health services in North and Southern Staffordshire. Here's where to find key information to keep you updated with progress:



## North Staffordshire

- North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust (NSCHT) podcasts – the Trust regularly produces its 'Combinations' podcast, with many topics on the Community Mental Health Transformation programme. You can find all podcasts on [its SoundCloud page here](#) as well as by searching for the Combinations podcast across many other podcast channels.
- NSCHT social media – Combined Healthcare posts regular updates on the transformation programme across its [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) accounts.
- NSCHT news pages – visit Combined's '[Latest News](#)' page on its website for regular programme updates.
- Transformation in North Staffordshire also has its own section on the [Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board website here](#).

## Southern Staffordshire

- Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust podcasts (MPFT) - a number of Community Mental Health Transformation programme podcasts are available via MPFT's [podcast channel](#), these episodes will provide a helpful introduction to the community mental health transformation. Further related podcasts are due to follow, you can find previous podcasts by searching for the MPFT podcast on Spotify, Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts and a range of other channels, and all podcasts relating to the community mental health transformation can be found on the [Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board website](#)
- MPFT social media – the Trust has dedicated social media pages to provide information and updates relating to the transformation. You can follow MPFT on [Twitter](#) or like its [Facebook page](#) for updates.

## Get in touch

If you have any questions relating to the transformation programme or feedback on the stakeholder newsletter and what you'd like us to cover, please email:

- North Staffordshire - [cmhtransformation@combined.nhs.uk](mailto:cmhtransformation@combined.nhs.uk)
- Southern Staffordshire - [MH-Transformation@mpft.nhs.uk](mailto:MH-Transformation@mpft.nhs.uk)

