

Advancing Mental Health Equalities

National update for MHIT network meeting

Advancing Mental Health Equalities Strategy



- **The Advancing Mental Health Equalities Taskforce**, an alliance of leaders and experts by experience from the mental health sector, was formed in February 2020. The Taskforce has identified a suite of short and longer term actions which will support advancements in access, experience and outcomes for communities experiencing inequalities. This includes communities with protected characteristics and other health inclusion groups.
- NHS England and NHS Improvement recently published **8 urgent actions health systems** must take to advance equalities as part of the COVID-19 response. For mental health, the focus is on:
 - Delivering the Long Term Plan commitments for mental health to improve access to support and care
 - Delivering against Data Quality Improvement Plans to improve the collection of protected characteristic data and, to ensure it is flowed to national datasets
 - Delivering the full suite of physical health checks for people with Severe Mental Illnesses
 - Reviewing digital care pathways in mental health and overcoming inequalities in access or experience
- NHS England and NHS Improvement have launched a [longer-term Strategy for advancing mental health equalities](#), which will sit alongside the [Mental Health Implementation Plan 2019/20-2023/24](#). The CYPMH national team is working with other mental health teams to take forward actions to support the strategic priorities: supporting local health systems, data and information, and workforce.
- The Strategy focuses on:

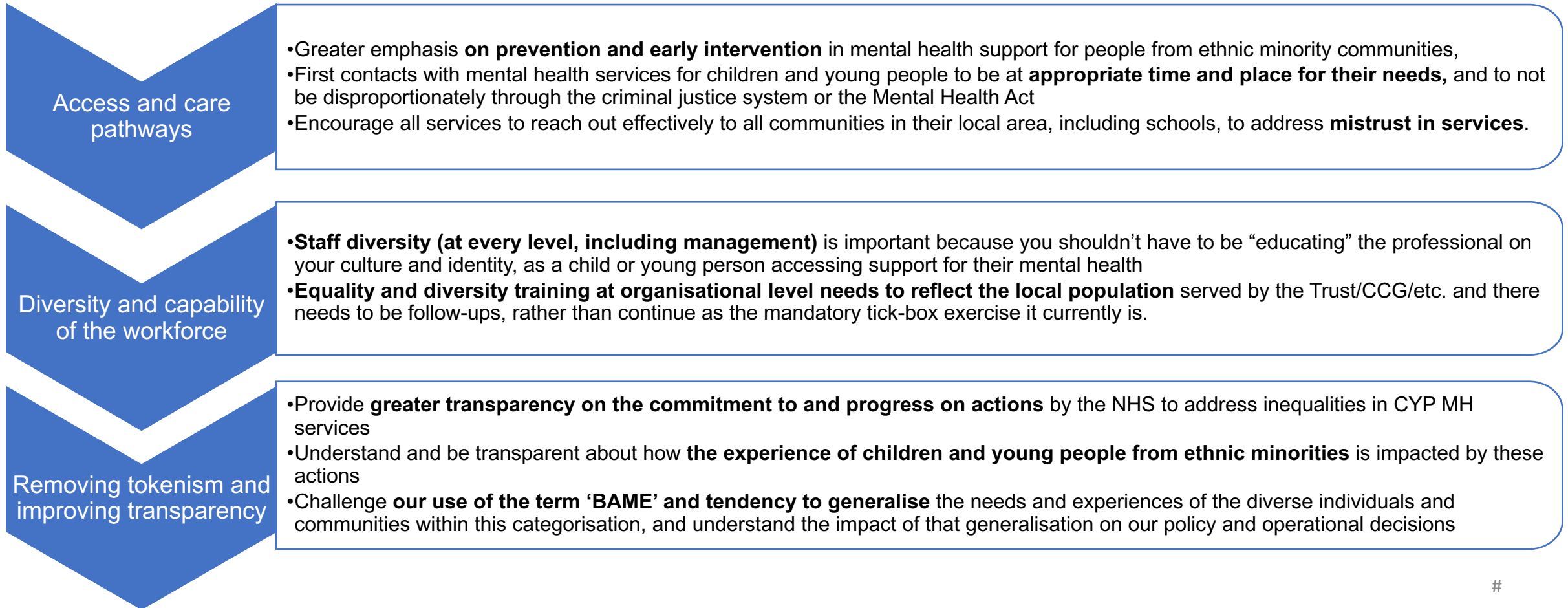
Supporting local systems to advance equalities	Improving the quality and use of data	Workforce
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the Patient and Carers Race Equality Framework (PCREF) • Investing in advancing mental health equalities via transformation/pilot sites in community mental health care • Sharing evidence where it emerges, and supporting research initiatives • Developing an impact framework for provider collaboratives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality and flow of data to national NHS datasets, including the recording of protected and other characteristics attributable to inclusion health groups • Using headline measures of mental health equality to monitor change over time, at both national and local level, and where improvements need to be made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the development of a representative workforce at all levels, equipped with the skills and knowledge to advance mental health equalities

Patient Carer Race Equality Framework



- The Mental Health Act Review recommended the NHS develop an organisational competence framework, the '**Patient and Carers Race Equality Framework**' (PCREF), a practical tool which enables organisations to understand what steps it needs to take to achieve practical improvements for individuals of diverse ethnic background.
- The aim is to improve the competency of mental health services so the experience of BAME patients and carers improves; to the end of making services more accessible, and to improve the health outcomes for BAME service users. This forms part of the Advancing Mental Health Equalities Strategy.

To support this, CYP MH national team have worked with Young Minds and Thrive LDN to advise the team developing the PCREF on our priority areas of focus for addressing racial inequalities in CYP MH services



Next steps for the CYP MH national team and asks for support from clinical network colleagues



Advancing Mental Health Equalities Strategy

1. We are promoting the Advancing Mental Health Equalities Strategy and the resources associated with it to inform local system planning.
 - Ask of clinical network colleagues: to also support the promotion and sharing of the strategy.
2. We are taking forward various specific actions (which we will share more detail on at a later date). In the short term, the main action is for us to build a repository of positive practice on advancing equalities in CYP MH services, including cultivating learning from sites that have received transformation funding
 - Ask of clinical network colleagues:
 - to share projects or learning from initiatives in local areas to address inequalities in mental health access, experience or outcomes, e.g. positive outreach with community groups.
 - to provide views on how we could gather learning through transformation sites on equalities impact in least burdensome manner for local services.

Patient and Carer Race Equality Framework

1. The CYP MH national team has been asked to support the development of PCREF by running engagement (facilitated through Young Minds) with young people, parents and carers from different ethnic minority backgrounds, to understand their experiences of services and what practical steps services should take to improve their offer for people from different ethnic backgrounds.
 - Ask of clinical network colleagues: If anyone is involved with/ aware of a **local participation group with people from ethnic minority communities** who we could connect with as part of this engagement, please do let us know within the next couple of weeks.