

Press Release

Tuesday 10 October 2017

New pilot for mental health support for people with long-term health conditions

Thurrock is one of 16 areas in England and the only one in the East, that have been awarded transformation funding for a second wave pilot on Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) for people with long-term health conditions.

The service was officially launched on 10 October to tie in with World Mental Health Day. Theresa Moyes, Head of Quality and Clinical Performance, South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT) and Dr Anand Deshpande, Chair of Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group launched the service, saying it was a forward thinking way to improve overall health and wellbeing of people living with long term health conditions.

The plans are for seven experienced mental health therapists to be integrated into primary care teams to provide support and enable people with LTCs enhance their self-management skills. The focus will initially be people living with Diabetes to align with the development of the RightCare programme. It will then be rolling out to other conditions like COPD and Heart Disease through 2018-19.

Paul Evans, Regional Lead, East of England, Inclusion Thurrock said:

“The first wave of IAPT has been really successful and we are hoping that if we help a person to overcome mental health issues, like depression and anxiety, they will be better able to manage their condition. Living with a long term condition like Diabetes, can be difficult for people to manage, both physically and mentally. We hope this service will demonstrate that looking after the mind will improve a person’s physical health outcomes too.”

By the end of 2020/21 over 1.5 million people with common mental health problems each year will access psychological therapies. People with common mental health problems often also have physical long term conditions such as diabetes or cardiovascular disease. When mental and physical health problems are treated in an integrated way people can achieve better outcomes.

Claire Murdoch, National Mental Health Director, NHS England

“Mental health issues affect thousands of adults every day. This funding is for new integrated services, which specifically help patients with a long term condition alongside anxiety or depression, or a medically unexplained symptom.

“The plans for integrated talking therapies are ambitious: we aim to see 200,000 patients each year with the help of 1,500 new practitioners in primary care by March 2019.

“This new wave of funding is just one of the ways we are reaching the targets we set out in the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health. It’s also really good news, improving care in 40 CCGs including Thurrock CCG and right across England.”

Dr Rajan Mohile, GP, Mental Health Lead and Board member of NHS Thurrock CCG said:

“This World Mental Health Day it’s fitting to launch a service that will make a huge difference to people in Thurrock who live with long-term health conditions. Often the burden of living with health problems can make a person feel depressed or anxious. This impacts on their ability to cope with their condition and manage their own wellbeing. These therapists will be working within GP practices, making it really easy for people to access support. The first practices to benefit will be College Health practices in Grays, Chadwell and Tilbury as well as Thurrock Health Centre in Grays.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

For more information about the launch event and to arrange interview, please contact Louise Banks, louise.banks3@nhs.net or call 07775 406849.

About Wave 2 funding, Therapists for people with Long Term Health conditions
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/mental-health/adults/iapt/mus/wave-two-integrated-iapt-sites/>

About Thurrock CCG

Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for the commissioning and delivery of local health care services. The CCG buys healthcare from hospitals, community and mental health services and some specialist services. service contracts with GPs, dentists, pharmacists and opticians are managed by [NHS England](#).

Driven by clinicians, the CCG is supported by a wide range of professionals and strategic partners, to commission and deliver joined up seamless quality services to the public, patients and carers of Thurrock. Our vision is that the health and care experience for the people of Thurrock will be improved as a result of our working together. Further information about Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group is available from www.thurrockccg.nhs.uk

About Inclusion Thurrock www.inclusionthurrock.org

Inclusion Thurrock is the locally commissioned service to provide improved access to psychological therapies (IAPT) and a Recovery College to the people of Thurrock. Established in April 2016, Inclusion Thurrock has demonstrated excellent outcomes in both increasing access to therapy and empowering recovery for their patients.

Inclusion Thurrock IAPT and Recovery College are very excited about developing this service for all those living with long-term conditions who are also struggling with depression or anxiety. The research shows that the recovery rate for clients with LTCs is similar to those without (NHS Digital, 43% v 46% 2015/6) which is driving the expansion within IAPT to focus on LTC and medically unexplained symptoms (MUS).

It is anticipated that 2/3 of the expansion in IAPT, between 2017 and 2021 will be directed at LTC clients. There’s a real sense that previously, those with LTC have been left behind and the benefit of psychological therapies not seen as equally important as managing their physical conditions. Now, by bringing the practitioners together from the physical and psychological health fields, to work cooperatively, we know that clients will feel the benefit of this joint approach.