

The 2014 Dorset Declaration on improving outcomes for people experiencing mental health crisis October 2014

We, as partner organisations in **Dorset** will work together to put in place the principles of the national **Concordat** to improve the system of care and support so that people in crisis because of a mental health condition are kept safe and have access to the appropriate level of support and care. We will help them to find the help they need – whatever the circumstances – from whichever of our services they turn to first.

We will work together to ensure that prevention is the guiding principle and aim to prevent crises happening whenever possible, through intervening at an early stage.

We will make sure that we meet the needs of vulnerable people in urgent situations, getting the right care at the right time from the right people to make sure of the best outcomes.

We will do our very best to make sure that all relevant public services, contractors and independent sector partners support people with a mental health problem to help them recover. Everybody who signs this declaration will work towards developing ways of sharing information to help front line staff provide better responses to people in crisis.

We are responsible for delivering this commitment in **Dorset** by putting an action plan in place and regularly reviewing and updating the plan.

This declaration supports 'parity of esteem' (see the glossary) between physical and mental health care in the following ways:

- Through everyone agreeing a shared 'care pathway' to safely support, assess and manage anyone who asks any of our services in **Dorset** for help in a crisis. This will result in the best outcomes for people with suspected mental illness, provide advice and support for individuals who experience mental distress and it will support carers, by making sure that services work together safely and effectively.
- Through all the agencies working together to improve individuals' experience (professionals, people who use crisis care services, and carers) and reduce the likelihood of harm to the health and wellbeing of patients, carers and professionals.
- By making sure there are safe and effective services in place with clear and agreed policies and procedures to support people in crisis, and that the organisations are enabled to access the appropriate services and refer people in the same way as they would for physical health and social care services.
- By all the partner organisations who sign this declaration working together and accept our responsibilities to reduce the likelihood of future harm to staff, carers, patients and service users or the wider community and to support people's recovery and wellbeing.

We, the organisations listed below, support this Declaration. We are committed to working together to continue to improve crisis care for people with mental health needs in Dorset.

- NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS England Wessex Local Area Team
- Bournemouth Borough Council
- Borough of Poole
- The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Dorset Police
- Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner
- Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- British Transport Police

- South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust
- Rethink Mental Illness
- Dorset Mental Health Forum
- Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Dorset Fire and Rescue Service
- Dorset County Council

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Patricia Miller



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Andrew Eckhart



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Glossary of terms used in this declaration

<p>Concordat</p>	<p>A document published by the Government.</p> <p>The Concordat is a shared, agreed statement, signed by senior representatives from all the organisations involved. It covers what needs to happen when people in mental-health crisis need help.</p> <p>It contains a set of agreements made between national organisations, each of which has a formal responsibility of some kind towards people who need help. It also contains an action plan agreed between the organisations who have signed the Concordat.</p> <p>Title: Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat – Improving outcomes for people experiencing mental health crisis Author: Department of Health and Concordat signatories Document purpose: Guidance Publication date: 18th February 2014</p> <p>Link: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281242/36353_Mental_Health_Crisis_accessible.pdf</p>
<p>Mental health crisis</p>	<p>When people – of all ages – with mental health problems urgently need help because of their suicidal behaviour, panic attacks or extreme anxiety, psychotic episodes, or behaviour that seems out of control or irrational and likely to put the person (or other people) in danger.</p>
<p>Parity of esteem</p>	<p>Parity of esteem is when mental health is valued equally with physical health.</p> <p>If people become mentally unwell, the services they use will assess and treat mental health disorders or conditions on a par with physical illnesses.</p> <p>Further information: http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/qual-clin-lead/pe</p>

Recovery	<p>One definition of Recovery within the context of mental health is from Dr. William Anthony:</p> <p>“Recovery is a deeply personal, unique process changing one’s attitude, values, feelings, goals, skills, and/or roles.</p> <p>It is a way of living a satisfying, hopeful, and contributing life.</p> <p>Recovery involves the development of new meaning and purpose in one’s life as one grows beyond the catastrophic effects of psychiatric disability” (Anthony, 1993)</p> <p>Further information http://www.imroc.org/</p>
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