5th December 2014

[**Partnership pledge to improve mental health care in**](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/health/partnership_pledge_to_improve_mental_health_care_in_norfolk_1_3714936&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoUMTI2NTE3NDMwMDAxNjYwNDk4MTMyHGM1MzdjNGYwZmVmYzRlZDQ6Y28udWs6ZW46R0I&usg=AFQjCNEXoryy7rcgw0w-wj7ISno8VSHx7g) **Walsall**

Agencies across Walsall have made a pledge to improve the care for people in a mental health crisis by signing up to the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat. Walsall CCG, primary care, mental health and ambulance trusts, police, local authority and other services and agencies will now develop a joint plan of action for how they will work together to improve services.

The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat is a national agreement between services and agencies involved in the care and support of people in crisis. It sets out how organisations will work together better to make sure that people in crisis receive urgent mental health care.

In February 2014, 22 national bodies involved in health, policing, social care, housing, local government and the third sector came together and signed the concordat. It focuses on four main areas: access to support before crisis point; urgent and emergency access to crisis care; quality of treatment and care when in crisis; and recovery and staying well.

Care and Support Minister, Norman Lamb, said: "Improving mental health crisis care is a major priority and our Crisis Care Concordat is helping make sure people in distress get the urgent, compassionate care they need.

“I’d like to congratulateWalsall for signing their declaration and strongly urge others to follow suit. Better, more consistent and more collaborative care for people in crisis will not only help those living through their darkest hours to recover, it can also save lives. I want to make sure we cover the whole country by the end of the year so that we rapidly spread best practice.”

Policing Minister Mike Penning said:

“The Home Secretary and I have made it a priority to vastly improve the way people with mental health issues are dealt with when they come into contact with the police. I am delighted to see the police force in Walsall has joined the NHS and other agencies to pledge their commitment to the Crisis Care Concordat.

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Paul Farmer, Chief Executive of Mind, the mental health charity said: “We are really pleased to see organisations getting together locally and taking the first steps toward improving the care of people in mental health crisis. We know that where excellent crisis care exists, it saves lives, but too often people fall through the cracks between different services and don’t get the help they need. Local health services, local authorities, the criminal justice system and voluntary organisations must deliver a joined-up service and learn from each other to truly provide the best possible care.”

For more information about the concordat, visit [www.crisiscareconcordat.org.uk](http://www.crisiscareconcordat.org.uk)

**Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat: the joint statement**

*We commit to work together to improve the system of care and support so people in crisis because of a mental health condition are kept safe and helped to find the support they need – whatever the circumstances in which they first need help – and from whichever service they turn to first.*

*We will work together, and with local organisations, to prevent crises happening whenever possible through prevention and early intervention. We will endeavour to meet the needs of vulnerable people in urgent situations. We will strive to make sure that all relevant public services support someone who appears to have a mental health problem to move towards Recovery.*

*Jointly, we hold ourselves accountable for enabling this commitment to be delivered across Walsall.*

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Dave Baker

Operations Commander



David Williams

Executive Director, Care and Support

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Paul Sheehan

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Wendy Saviour

Local Area Team Director