

**The 2014 [*Merton*] Declaration on improving outcomes for people experiencing mental health crisis [20 March 2015]**

We, as partner organisations in [*Merton*], 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. 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 prevent crises happening whenever possible, through intervening at an early stage.

We will make sure 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 [*Merton*] by putting in place, reviewing and regularly updating an action plan/action plans.

**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 [*Merton*] for help in a crisis. This will result in the best outcomes for people with suspected serious mental illness, provide advice and support for their carers, and make sure that services work together safely and effectively.
- Through 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 is a safe and effective service with clear and agreed policies and procedures in place for people in crisis, and that organisations can access the service and refer people to it in the same way as they would for physical health and social care services.
- By all organisations who sign this declaration working together and accepting 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 [*Merton*]**

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Organisation	Name	Role	Signature
Merton CCG	Emma Gennard	Senior Mental Health Commissioning Manager	
SWLStG Trust	Gill Moore	Service Director	
Metropolitan Police	Stuart Macleod	Chief Superintendent Merton Borough Commander	
London Borough of Merton	Simon Williams	Director of Community and Housing	
Healthwatch Merton	Dave Curtis	Merton Manager	