

## Press Notice 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009

### Vision and Progress: Social Inclusion and Mental Health

The National Social Inclusion Programme (NSIP) today publishes its 'Vision and Progress' report, setting out the programme's achievements since the Social Exclusion Unit's 2004 publication 'Mental Health and Social Exclusion'.

It also reviews the progress made over the last four years at national, regional and local level across the statutory and non-statutory sectors in promoting the social inclusion agenda for people with mental health problems.

Key achievements include:

- The 'Communities of Influence' programme which has developed the role of lay members and governors of NHS Foundation Trusts to support inclusive outcomes.
- A review of the modernisation process of day services 'From segregation to inclusion: Where are we now?'
- Working with the Cabinet Office on the Social Exclusion Action Plan and mental health aspects of the Public Service Agreement (PSA) 16 on accommodation and employment.
- The launch of the 'Open to All' training package at the Wallace Collection, helping museums and galleries to be more inclusive for people with mental health problems.

National Director for Mental Health, Louis Appleby

"I would like to congratulate the National Social Inclusion Programme (NSIP) on the publication of this final report, which details the vast range of achievements and successes over the past four years. It is an important stock take on how far we have come in increasing socially inclusive outcomes, but also what more needs to be done by communities in partnership. NSIP has sought to address the inclusion needs of people with mental health problems to complement the clinical focus that services inevitably have in the early phases of treatment. Their work has impacted upon the policy, commissioning and delivery of mental health services but also more widely, in partnership with employment, housing, education and other community service providers to ensure that barriers to inclusion are reduced. I am proud of their achievements. I know that the implications of their work will be felt by people both now and in the future, and act as a springboard for continued policy and practice development".

Director of the Social Exclusion Taskforce, Naomi Eisenstadt

"The Social Exclusion Unit's Mental Health and Social Exclusion report showed us why it is important that people with mental health problems are able to access the same opportunities that most of us take for granted. Four years on, this report documents the considerable achievements of the National Social Inclusion Programme, not just in implementing the SEU

report, but also in contributing to the development of a wide range of policy, including the Public Service Agreement (PSA) 16 on employment and settled accommodation outcomes for people with severe and enduring mental health problems. NSIP has played a valuable role in helping us communicate the PSA, and in helping us understand the challenges ahead”.

#### NSIP Expert Advisor

“It’s wonderful to see the contribution that we as Expert Advisors have made to the programme reflected within the report. Whilst undertaking various projects of work, I had not appreciated the breadth of the activity and outcomes that we have managed to influence over the last four years. I think this report really demonstrates the interlinked nature of people’s lives and therefore the work of NSIP, and this is how it should be”.

The report also provides an assessment of the remaining and continuing challenges that need to be addressed for improved outcomes for people with mental health problems.

Partnership working remains central to ensuring that these challenges are addressed. This is the basis for taking forward the work of NSIP in a new organisation; the Inclusion Institute. The Institute, based in the International School for Communities, Rights and Inclusion at the University of Central Lancashire and the Kings Fund in London, will be a centre of excellence in learning, evidence, innovation and practice on social inclusion in the context of engaged and sustainable communities.

#### Editors’ notes

1. The National Social Inclusion Programme (NSIP) was initially established to coordinate the delivery of the Social Exclusion Unit’s (SEU) report, ‘Mental Health and Social Exclusion’ and its 27 action points through a cross-government national team with far reaching national and regional partnerships to support its work. The report represented a landmark for mental health policy and practice in the UK. It provided a clear plan for action to reduce and remove the barriers to employment, mainstream services, and community participation for those with mental health problems.
2. In 2006, the Cabinet Office invited NSIP to contribute to the development of *Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion* which led to our overseeing the creation of dedicated regional employment teams to provide further support for the implementation of good practice on the employment of people with severe mental health problems. The programme has also worked with the Cabinet Office on developing and implementing the Public Service Agreement (PSA) 16, on employment and settled accommodation outcomes for people with severe and enduring mental health problems, supporting action to ensure that the PSA drives change at local level.

3. The 'Communities of Influence' programme enables Foundation Trusts to engage and lead their governors and members to build the community capacity needed to strengthen socially inclusive outcomes for people with mental health problems who use their services.
4. 'From segregation to inclusion: Where are we now?', published January 2008, provides a snapshot of progress against the criteria in the commissioning guidance published in February 2006 on day services for people with mental health problems.
5. 'Open to All' was launched by the Health Secretary in September 2008. It is designed to encourage museums and galleries to involve people with mental health problems. Commissioned by a working partnership of NSIP, the Wallace Collection, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, Tate Modern, Portugal Prints and the V&A, the training package was developed by the University of Nottingham, Nottingham County Teaching PCT and the Lost Artists Club and will be available for staff in museums, libraries and galleries at a local level throughout the country, from mid 2009 onwards.
6. David Morris will be taking up the post of Director of the Inclusion Institute, at the International School for Communities, Rights and Inclusion at the University of Central Lancashire from the 1<sup>st</sup> April. For further information please contact David.Morris@dh.gsi.gov.uk

For further information please visit [www.socialinclusion.org.uk](http://www.socialinclusion.org.uk).

For further enquiries, please contact Marco Carrera on 020 7307 2448.