IIMHL & IIDL Leadership Briefing XIII

COVID-19: Integrated Care

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This briefing includes two key documents which, while not focused on mental health, addiction or disability, present solutions which can be helpful for all our communities of interest.

The first is an overview of the UK Government's new plan for managing the COVID-19 pandemic which builds on past efforts. The second is a thought leadership report from the International Foundation for Integrated Care. It states that Covid19 presents an opportunity to reset our fragmented health and care systems so that they are integrated, driven by people and communities and resilient in the face of future systemic shocks.

GOV.UK: Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy
Cabinet Office 12th May 2020

Foreword from The Prime Minister Boris Johnson:

"This document sets out a plan to rebuild the UK for a world with COVID-19. It is not a quick return to 'normality.' Nor does it lay out an easy answer. And, inevitably, parts of this plan will adapt as we learn more about the virus. But it is a plan that should give the people of the United Kingdom hope. Hope that we can rebuild; hope that we can save lives; hope that we can safeguard livelihoods.

It will require much from us all: that we remain alert; that we care for those at most risk; that we pull together as a United Kingdom. We will continue to work with the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure these outcomes for everybody, wherever they live in the UK".

The Government's aim has been to save lives. This continues to be the overriding priority at the heart of this plan.

The Government must also seek to minimise the other harms it knows the current restrictive measures are causing - to people's wellbeing, livelihoods, and wider health. But there is a risk that if the Government rushes to reverse these measures, it would trigger a second outbreak that could overwhelm the NHS. So the UK must adapt to a new reality - one where society can return to normal as far as possible; where children can go to school, families can see one another and livelihoods can be protected, while also continuing to protect against the spread of the disease.

Therefore the Government's aim at the centre of this plan is to:

return to life as close to normal as possible, for as many people as possible, as fast and fairly as possible….

…in a way that avoids a new epidemic, minimises lives lost and maximises health, economic and social outcomes.

To do this, the Government will need to steadily redesign the current social distancing measures with new, smarter measures that reflect the level of risk at that point in time, and carefully wind down economic support schemes while people are eased back into work.

This report covers:

1. The current situation
2. Our aims: saving lives; saving livelihoods
3. Our approach: a phased recovery
4. Our roadmap to lift restrictions step-by-step
5. Fourteen supporting programmes
6. How you can help
7. Annex A: Staying safe outside your home
8. Annex B: Summary table: COVID-19 vulnerable groups.

Underpinning the above are some guiding principles:

(1) Informed by the science. The Government will continue to be guided by the best scientific and medical advice to ensure that it does the right thing at the right time.

(2) Fairness. The Government will, at all times, endeavour to be fair to all people and groups.

(3) Proportionality. The Government will ensure that all measures taken to control the virus are proportional to the risk posed, in terms of the social and economic implications.

(4) Privacy. The Government will always seek to protect personal privacy and be transparent with people when enacting measures that, barring this once-in-a-century event, would never normally be considered.

(5) Transparency. The Government will continue to be open with the public and parliamentarians, including by making available the relevant scientific and technical advice. The Government will be honest about where it is uncertain and acting at risk, and it will be transparent about the judgements it is making and the basis for them. In meeting these principles, the UK Government will work in close cooperation with the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to make this a UK-wide response: coherent, coordinated and comprehensive.

Realising the True Value of Integrated Care: Beyond COVID-19

International Foundation for Integrated Care May 2020

IFIC recently launched "Realising the true value of integrated care: Beyond COVID-19", a thought leadership report which states that Covid19 presents an opportunity to reset our fragmented health and care systems so that they are integrated, driven by people and communities and resilient in the face of future systemic shocks.

COVID-19 is changing what we value as a society – we are redefining the meaning of 'community', realising that we cannot get through difficult times on our own. We are discovering the importance of undervalued care work. We are now painfully aware of how the social, economic and health inequities, entrenched in the past decades through austerity measures, exacerbate and are exacerbated by the pandemic.

Seizing the opportunity to transform how we think about and design our systems will lead to improving population health and wellbeing and ensure we are better equipped to respond to future crises. This requires unprecedented levels of collective action. It requires tackling the social determinants of health and reducing health inequalities. It requires shifting our focus from hospital-centric, disease-specific approaches to assuming accountability towards a territorially defined population, taking as a start point people's and communities' strengths.

"Leadership is hard at the best of times but never more so in a time of crisis. It is increasingly recognised that health and social care and integrated care are complex adaptive systems and that necessitates a different type of leadership that nurtures innovation facilitates adaptation and adoption. We are at an epoch in our history and for those of us passionate about integrated care - the time is now, for us to rise together to embrace share and shape our new future and this document is our first step". Professor Carroll, Ireland.

Nine key pillars underpin our position and vision for the future of a resilient (global) integrated care system.

1. Shared values and vision
2. Population health and local context
3. People as partners in care
4. Resilient communities and new alliances
5. Workforce capacity and capability

6. System wide governance and leadership
7. Digital solutions
8. Aligned payment systems
9. Transparency of progress, results and impact

"Working as one system, one integrated system, has never been more important. This is not the time to retreat to working independently across health and social care (as can often happen when individuals and organisations feel under threat and when we think of our organisations rather than the community and all the organisation but rather a call to action to work together and accelerate our 'one team' response.

This is also not the time to retreat from co-designing with patients and caregivers. In fact, this is more important than ever. Only by sharing power between us, to design, deliver and learn as a system. a true, compassionate connected system will we be able to realize the potential of integrated care has to offer. Integrated care is NOT a project or an initiative, it is a redesigned system that places people, families, communities and the people who provide health and social care at the centre. J Goldhar, Canada.

https://integratedcarefoundation.org/covid-19/realising-the-true-value-of-integrated-care-beyond-covid-19