

PE1716/A

Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland submission of 2 May 2019

The College welcome the opportunity to discuss Mental Health service provisions in Scotland, and how they can be improved for the betterment of all. As the committee will be aware, the Minister for Mental Health recently announced [a full review](#) of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. We recognise that this review will cover many of the areas that this petition discusses.

[The Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027](#) provides a framework for the review of Mental Health services and there are a number of work streams addressing the issues raised by the petition.

With regard to signposting, Integrated Joint Boards (IJBs) are responsible for the majority of Mental Health services in Scotland, rather than the NHS alone, which might explain the difficulty that the petitioners have found with signposting from the NHS about third sector organisations. IJBs and third sector organisations, however, do have close links, as IJB by-laws include having third sector members on the boards.

The role of risk assessment is under constant review. In Scotland, the Risk Management Authority plays a key role in maintaining the standards of risk assessment. We also note that the Mental Welfare Commission and Health Improvement Scotland play key roles in maintaining standards and protecting rights in Mental Health services and promoting quality improvements.

The College recognises that crisis support services are currently being reviewed by both [the Children and Young People's Mental Health Task Force](#), led by Dr Dame Denise Coia, and the [National Suicide Prevention Group](#), led by Rose Fitzpatrick. Both these groups, and therefore their reviews of crisis support services, are being overseen by the Mental Health Strategic Delivery Board, led by the Minister for Mental Health. The College sits on the delivery board as a member and we welcome the opportunity to discuss improving crisis support services for Mental Health patients further.

We note the petitioner's views on having fatal accident inquiries within Mental Health services. Scottish Government has recently realised a [Review of the arrangements for investigating the deaths of patients being treated for mental disorder](#), which was published at the end of the 2018, led by Professor Craig White. We look forward to the recommendations being taken forward.

We look forward to working with the Committee and the petitioners in the future for the benefit of those with lived experience of Mental Health services in Scotland