



Department  
for Education

## Higher Education Mental Health Implementation Taskforce

### HE-NHS Partnerships

This strand emerged from the 'Developing the Future Plan' work and was outlined in the Taskforce First Stage Report. Innovative local partnerships between HEPs and the NHS are delivering benefits to HEPs' support services, local health systems and students (particularly those with long-term complex conditions). The Taskforce has agreed to develop guidance and information on these partnerships to encourage their wider adoption.

#### Update

A working group met in March to discuss the case study template and to agree on the partnership models that should be invited to participate. Attendees suggested additional information that should be included in the template; this included more information on funding and workforce requirements, as well as impact and student coproduction.

On Monday 18 March, the template was shared with seven partnerships. The partnerships have been given until late April to return their responses. All partnerships have had initial conversations with members of the Taskforce Project Team.

It has been agreed that a draft version of the guidance will be shared with the Taskforce at its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in late Summer (date TBC). The immediate next steps between April-July are outlined below.

#### Next Steps

April:

- Update Taskforce members on progress (19 April).
- Receive initial responses from the partnership models (late April).

May:

- Second working group meeting to evaluate the responses and agree the focus of the semi-structured interviews (late-May TBC).

- Update Taskforce members on progress and finalise the written update for the Taskforce Second Stage Report (31 May).

June:

- Semi-structured interviews with the partnership models (all month).

July:

- Third working group meeting to review the initial draft guidance and make comments on its structure and framing (mid-July TBC).

## **Discussion Points**

Over Summer the draft guidance will be shared with colleagues to review. The Taskforce is invited to suggest stakeholders that should be included in the summer consultation.

A remaining issue to be discussed is where this guidance will be homed following its publication, including how we ensure it is disseminated most effectively across the HE and Health sectors. Thoughts on this topic are also welcome.

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