



Newsletter

February 2019

Call for Evidence

Over 200 people have submitted written documents/personal statements to the Inquiry team and there have been 61 oral evidence sessions. Volunteers from both the Dundee and Perth Samaritans have supported almost all of the oral evidence sessions which were held in the Inquiry offices in Springfield, Dundee. Evidence has been submitted to the Inquiry from patients, families, carers, NHS employees and third sector organisations.

The Inquiry team have also been to take evidence in Carseview, Rohallion Forensic Psychiatric Hospital, Murray Royal Infirmary, Whitehills Community Hospital (Forfar), Stracathro Hospital, Perth Royal Infirmary, HMP Perth and individuals' homes. Evidence has also been submitted from Police Scotland (Tayside Division), Universities Student Welfare Teams (counselling and mental health support services), Dundee Fairness Commission, Dundee Drugs Commission, Scottish Government Suicide Prevention Strategy Leadership Group, and third sector organisations such as Support in MIND and Voluntary Health Scotland.

A significant piece of work was undertaken September-November 2018 by the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (ALLIANCE), who held focus groups around the whole of the NHS Tayside region to capture the voices of those with lived experience of mental health provision in Tayside. Their report is available here: <https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/resources/independent-inquiry-into-mental-health-services-in-tayside-hearing-the-voices-of-people-with-lived-experience/>

The Alliance have continued to manage the Stakeholder Participation Group (SPG), and have submitted evidence to the Inquiry on behalf of individuals.

The Employee Participation Group (EPG) conducted an online staff survey during November and December and held focus group meetings for all those employed to work in NHS Tayside mental health services. The EPG will shortly be submitting a report to the Inquiry on its findings. Further meetings are scheduled with GP groups and student nurses/trainee psychiatrists to gather their views on mental health service provision in Tayside.

The Call for Evidence is now closed and the Inquiry team is extremely grateful to all who have submitted evidence directly to the Inquiry and to the Alliance and the EPG for gathering feedback and evidence on behalf of others.

The Next Stage

The next stage of the Inquiry's work is to analyse all the evidence, relevant government reports, statistical data, internal NHS review documents and data, in order to identify common themes which will then be the subject of further investigation and analysis. The analysis process will be conducted internally by the Inquiry Team, which includes two professional researchers.

The Team

Ms Paula Shiels has recently joined the Inquiry team as the Nurse Advisor. Paula is currently employed by NHS24 and has an extensive career in mental health nursing. Dr Ian Clarke, Consultant Psychiatrist NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde has also joined the team as the new Clinical Advisor, replacing Dr David Hall who stepped down from the role in December 2018. Ian has worked in Canada, the Vale of Leven and West Glasgow and has expertise in Critical Incident Review Management and has also chaired the Suicide Review Network for Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS).

Ministerial Visit

Ms Clare Haughey, MSP, Minister for Mental Health visited the Inquiry offices on Tuesday 22nd January 2019. Ms Haughey met with the team and discussed the Inquiry's work thus far and then met representatives from both the Stakeholder Participation Group and the Employee Participation Group.

Contact Details

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