



Newsletter

August 2019

Interim Report

On 22 May 2019 the Independent Inquiry's Interim Report was published. The report detailed 6 key themes emerging from the initial analysis of the evidence. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the progress of the inquiry's work to date.

The 6 main themes highlighted in the report were:

1. Patient Access to Mental Health Services;
2. Patient Sense of Safety
3. Quality of Care
4. Organisational Learning
5. Leadership
6. Governance

Within the 6 themes, there were 33 separate issues arising from the evidence received.

The report went live on the Inquiry's website (www.independentinquiry.org) on 22 May, and was covered widely in the local press, on local radio and national TV.

Dissemination of the Report

The Chair of the Inquiry was invited to present the interim report to NHS Tayside Board on 27 June, after which both the Chair and Secretary of the Inquiry were invited to attend meetings across the regions of NHS Tayside to discuss the report and answer any questions arising. The meetings attended so far include the Dundee Integration Joint Board (IJB) on 27 August and Angus Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum on 24 July.

Stakeholder Participation Group Meeting

A meeting of the SPG was held on 26 June 2019 which allowed SPG members to discuss the interim report with the Chair and Secretary of the Inquiry and to be updated on the progress of the inquiry since the publication of the interim report. A further meeting of the group is scheduled for 19 September 2019.

Workshop with student nurses/NHS Tayside staff

On 26th August, the Inquiry hosted a workshop for student mental health nurses, looking at possible ways to make improvements to healthcare systems in mental health services in Tayside. The workshop was led by an external facilitator Dr Karin Diaconu who has a special interest in service delivery in healthcare settings. The report produced from the workshop will be used to inform the recommendations for improvement in the final report.

Next Stage of Inquiry

Analysis of the evidence received is currently underway with the Inquiry team exploring and identifying new themes since the publication of the interim report. The Inquiry Chair and Secretary will continue to meet with organisations and NHS Tayside professional staff involved in mental health services provision, policy and guidance to help further inform the inquiry and its conclusions and recommendations for improvement to services.

Further evidence will be sought through detailed analysis of policies, documents, lived experience all submitted to the Inquiry during the call for evidence. The Inquiry team will investigate current policies and practices in place in mental health services and where appropriate will compare with good practice elsewhere with a view to making recommendations for improvement in the final report.

The terms of reference for the Inquiry stated that the remit would cover all mental health services in Tayside. In terms of the age profile, the interim report focused mostly on general adult psychiatry but since its publication, the Inquiry team have been working on reviewing service provision in CAMHS and Old Age Psychiatry too.

Inquiry Team

Mairi Robb left the Inquiry in May after working as administrator for 6 months. She has been replaced by **James Parker**.

Now that the intensive analysis stage of the Inquiry's work is underway, another researcher – **Ewan McCubbin** joined the team in June to assist with this work.