



Bevan Healthcare to work with homeless healthcare charity Pathway

July 2013

Pathway and Bevan Healthcare are delighted to announce that we have won two years funding from the Department of Health's Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Fund. The funding will be used to create a Bevan Pathway team in Bradford, to work with homeless people and vulnerable migrants who get admitted to hospital.

Pathway (www.pathway.org.uk) has developed a simple model of care co-ordination for homeless patients. The Department of Health funding will allow us to test how applicable Pathway's model is for homeless and other excluded patients in Bradford.

Homeless people are at the bottom of any graph of health inequalities, with various studies putting the average age of death of homeless people some 30 years below that of the general population. Homelessness is therefore a healthcare issue. Pathway has shown that an integrated care co-ordination team can improve outcomes for homeless patients in terms of reduced repeat hospital admissions and shorter length of stay for subsequent admissions. We have not tested this model for housed vulnerable migrants, housed drug users and other severely excluded groups - but we think our evidence of impact with homeless patients suggests it is worth exploring how our service model might improve the quality and experience of a hospital admission for these groups too.

In this project Bevan Healthcare and Pathway will establish a Bradford Bevan Pathway service. We know that Bevan Healthcare patients generate many more emergency hospital admissions than average, and Pathway's data from other parts of the UK shows that homeless patients generate secondary care costs eight times those of the housed population. This funding will allow us to bring Pathway's model to Bradford and test its usefulness for homeless people and a wider cohort of other vulnerable patients. At the same time, the project will collect new data on levels of hidden local health need and health inequalities within a defined population. We will use this data to support local commissioners and local health partners in thinking about the health needs of the most vulnerable and marginal groups in their population, groups otherwise often invisible to commissioners.

A Pathway hospital team works to integrate health and other services around admitted patients, using the moment of a stay in hospital to review all elements of an individual's care, across housing, social care, mental health,

drug and alcohol services, and personally with each patient, give them an opportunity to reflect on their situation, and think about a different life pathway when they leave hospital. Weekly multi-disciplinary team meetings build relationships around patients between all the statutory and non-statutory services engaged in their care.

Next steps

This project is at the earliest stages. The funding has been agreed but our first actions are now to start talking to all relevant partners within and beyond the NHS. These initial discussions will lead to a more formal homeless health 'needs assessment' following the model Pathway has used in other parts of the UK. We hope to agree the shape of the Bevan Pathway service by early autumn.

If you'd like to find out more about the project, please email:
info@pathway.org.uk

About us

Pathway is an independent health charity formed to transform health outcomes for homeless people and other multiply excluded groups. Pathway was formed around a simple service model for enhanced care co-ordination for homeless people admitted to hospital. Pathway is based on a set of core values putting compassion and kindness at the heart of professional medical practice. Pathway teams work in the NHS improving the quality of care for homeless patients and co-ordinating with the wide range of other services commonly engaged in our patients' lives.

Bevan Healthcare is a Social Enterprise. We are committed to helping people get the health care that they need. At Bevan House Primary Care Centre we provide responsive NHS General Practice services designed to meet the needs of people who are homeless or in unstable accommodation; those who have come to Bradford as refugees or to seek asylum; and others who find it hard to access health care.

For more information about Pathway's work visit www.pathway.org.uk
For more information about Bevan visit <http://www.bevanhealthcare.nhs.uk/>