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Scotland's Learning Partnership
Forum for Adult Learning NI
ECORYS
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Collaboration and Leadership for Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing

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10 OCTOBER 2018

Presentation structure

1. About the research
2. The context
3. My findings
4. Conclusions
5. Your questions

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Research question

What does improving mental health and wellbeing mean for how adult community learning (ACL) leaders engage in collaborative working with mental health services?

1. My research

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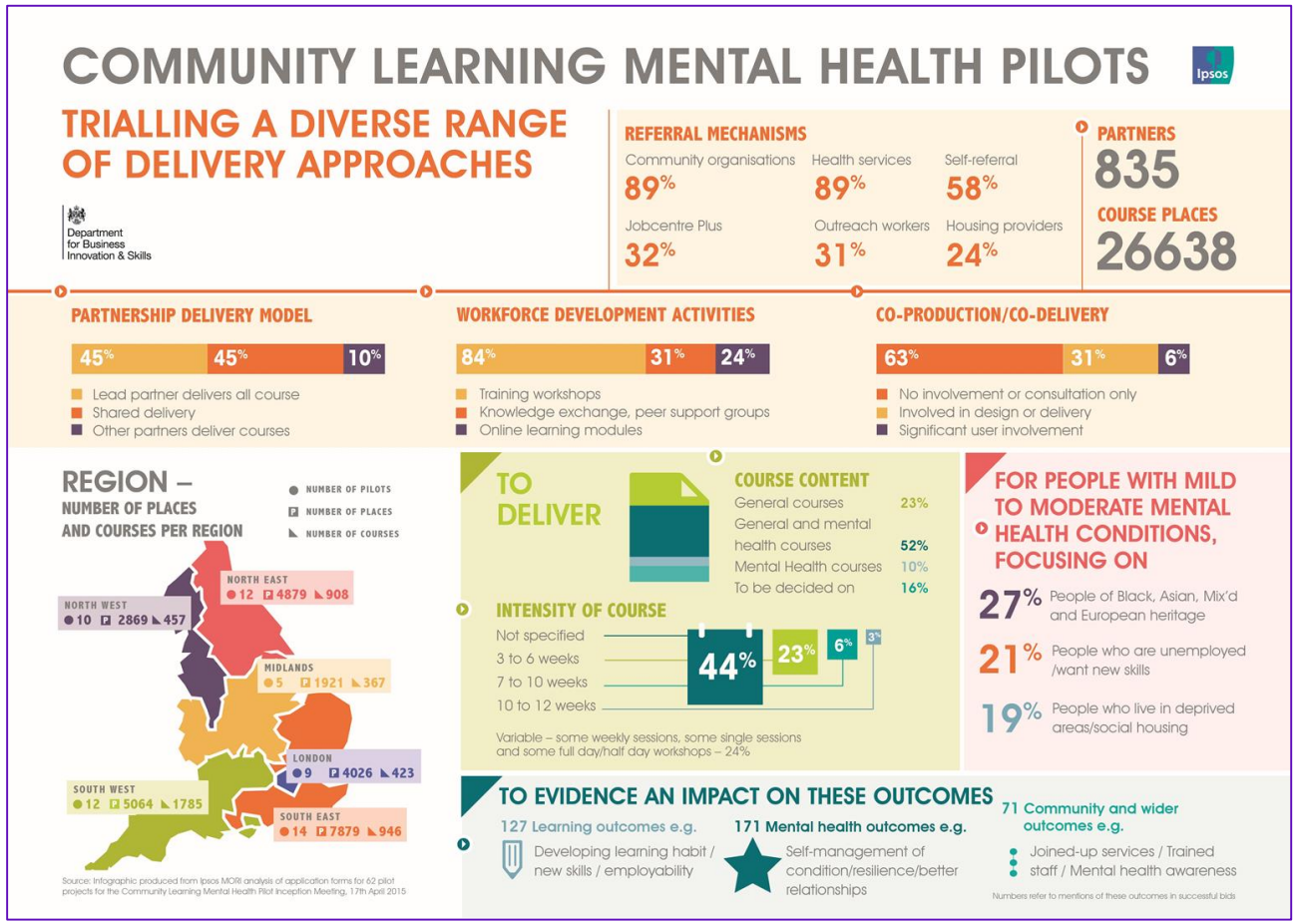
Inspired by



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2. Context

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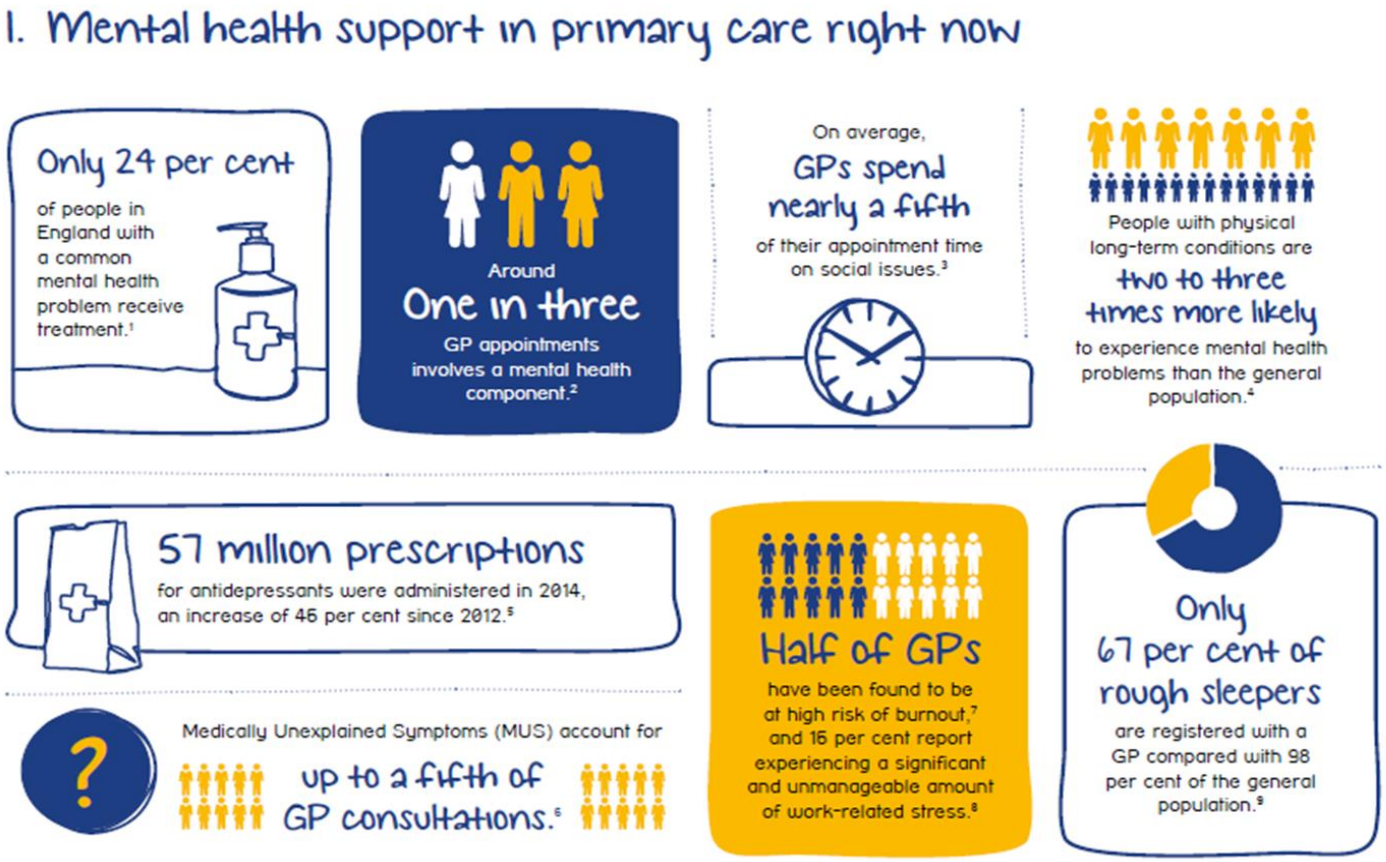
Needs v. responses



MIND, 2016. *Mental health in primary care: A briefing for Clinical Commissioning Groups*

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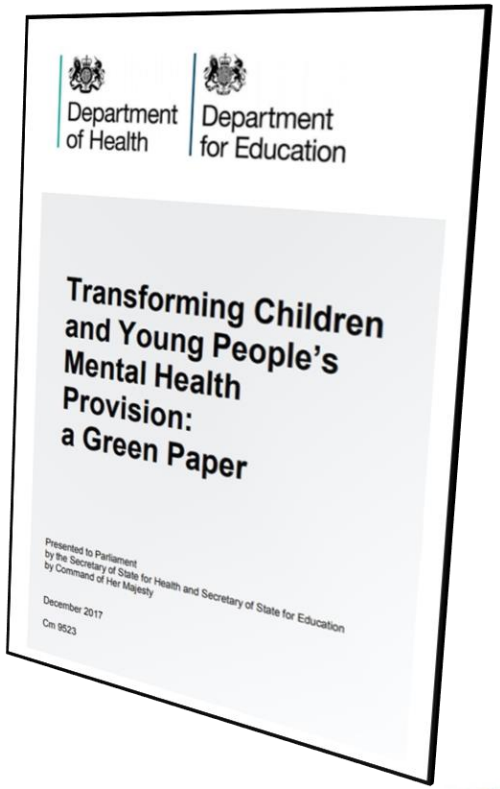
Policy priority gap/s

- Mental health of students aged 25 and over is low (or no) priority


Department of Health
Department for Education

Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision: a Green Paper

Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Health and Secretary of State for Education by Command of Her Majesty

December 2017

Cm 9523

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Opportunities or threats?

Health services:

- Emphasis on preventative and collaborative approaches
- Increasing localism

ACL:

- Evidence of impact on health and wellbeing
- Experienced collaborators
- Devolution

Are we letting our communities down by not harnessing each other's expertise?

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3. Findings

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“What are the shared values and benefits of collaborative working between primary care mental health and adult and community learning?”

Question 1

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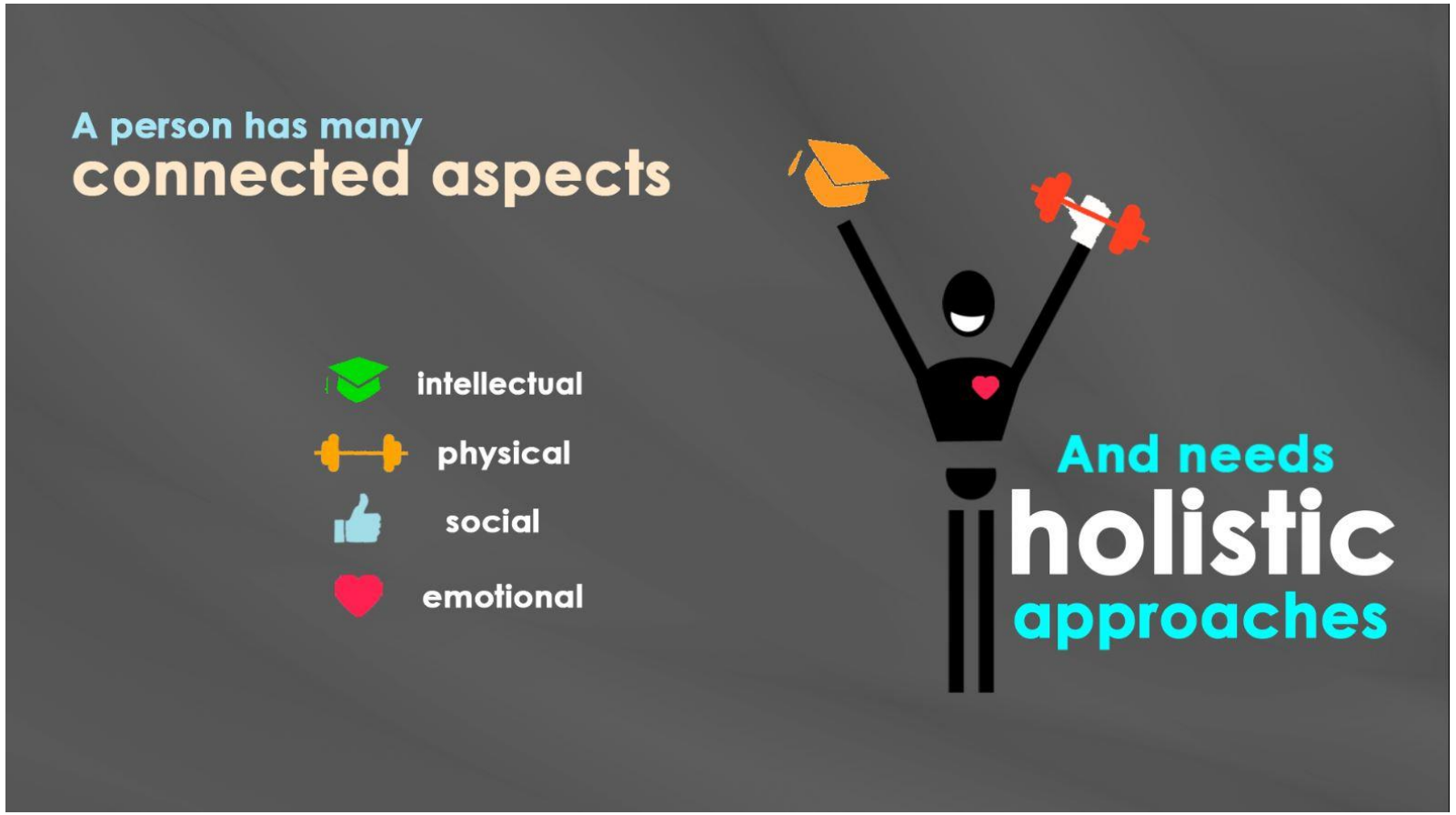
Benefits of collaboration



Adult learner:

"I hope to be part of the community and really that is what you want.
Health care is institutionalised.
But, what you want is to be a functioning part of the community and share with others with the same experience. And, that is what the colleges can offer."

Values

- Equality and inclusion
- Quality
- Respect
- Collaborative working

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“What could a shared vision of collaborative working look like?”

Question 2

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Adult learner:

"Could this collaboration be called: a route to normal living?

Give us some pathways to actually having a normal life. That is what we want."

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ACL's role is to help

Guiding principles

“What are the key leadership characteristics needed to make such a vision the reality?”

Question 3

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What is a leadership challenge?

- Lack of joined-up thinking at a national policy level
- No national strategy and/or policy framework for ACL
- Short organisational memory
- Lack of coordinated approaches in local areas
- Competition among providers
- Lack of time…and many more!

Leadership challenge

What do leaders need to do?

Key leadership requirements

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4. Conclusions

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Broadening the narratives about

- Approaches to mental health and wellbeing
- Purpose and potential of ACL
- Requirements of ACL leadership

ACL leadership priorities

- Recognise your responsibility, while accepting you don't have all the answers
- Be able to articulate the purpose of your work and its outcomes
- Broaden the binary narratives
- Reach out in order to learn, empower and mobilise

Some suggested actions

- Develop a compelling case for your provision
- Invest in the robust collection and analysis of outcome measures
- Get representation on Health and Wellbeing Boards, STPs etc.
- Develop whole organisational approaches to mental health and wellbeing…etc.

5. Your questions

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Summary animation:

https://youtu.be/enG7bOpAOTo