



Evaluating the prioritization and implementation process within the Mental Health Implementation Network

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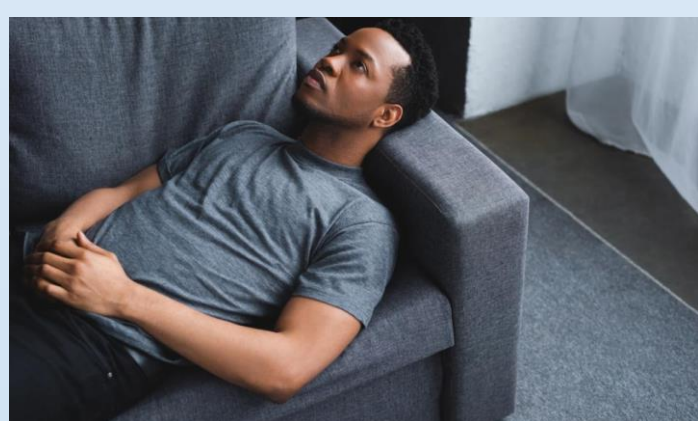
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Background

The Mental Health Implementation Network (MHIN) was set up to offer support to Applied Research Collaborating (ARC) sites in offering interventions in three key priority areas of mental health:



Community engagement systems for people from minority communities to improve their access to mental health care.



Improving children and young people's mental health - using IAPT Style Services.



Integrated care protocols for substance use issues, mental and physical problems.

25

Stakeholder interviews

Implementation & Sustainment Phase: Implementation

Exploration & Preparation Phase: Prioritization

EPIS and MHIN Phases

Methods

MHIN is a national implementation collaboration, where Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) has been embedded in key decision making. The network also prioritized the implementation of evidenced based solutions in England.

- Semi structured interviews were conducted with MHIN stakeholders encompassing multi-sector health and care providers, commissioners, government, clinical, managerial, commissioning, PPI, academic and other partners.
- Data collection methods also include meeting observation, with 3 hours of meetings observed and several more observations anticipated.
- The EPIS framework [1] is used to understand and support the implementation process at the six delivery sites.

Early Findings

There were two phases in MHIN:

- Firstly, a prioritisation exercise provided three key areas within mental health with pressing need nationally.
- Secondly, ARC sites were selected to implement mental health interventions nationally.

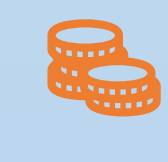
Data analysis was approached using framework analysis. Several themes have emerged thus far:

Relations



"it's about the balance of power"

Resources



"you can come to the priorities, but you also need to know about the context in which you're going to be implementing those findings"

Challenges



"funding on its own is not sufficient... but it's absolutely necessary"

Sustainability

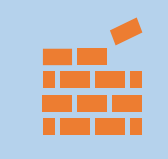


"When you put together stakeholders, there's always a challenge of synthesizing their recommendation into something that makes sense to everyone, which is a difficult undertaking"

Capability



Infrastructure



PPI



"PPI is obviously so integral... because they provide the knowledge of what's on the ground"

Evaluation Design

The study was a process evaluation derived from realist tradition. Our aims were:

1. Programme wide evaluation – focusing on the relationship between prioritization and implementation, including implication for sustainability and spread.
2. Offer evaluation support to MHIN sites in the delivery of mental health interventions of MHIN.

Reflections

- Stakeholders strongly emphasize identifying context dimensions as they emerge to address challenges.
- Enthusiasm and commitment is a key driver in maintaining MHIN site support.
- Collaboration and partnership should be prioritized alongside funding when considering sustainability.

[1] Moullin JC, Dickson KS, Stadnick NA, Rabin B, Aarons GA. Systematic review of the exploration, preparation, implementation, sustainment (EPIS) framework. *Implementation Science*. 2019 Dec;14(1):1-6.