

### Drug and alcohol services

The 10 key messages below are drawn from the Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health's guide on commissioning drug and alcohol services. To read the full guide, please visit [www.jcpmh.info](http://www.jcpmh.info)

- 1 Investment in drug and alcohol services gets results. Treatment, as part of a co-ordinated public health approach is proven to be cost effective for health services and society as a whole. Disinvestment brings with it a risk of reversing the progress made over recent years.
- 2 A strong evidence base exists for the range of interventions that are effective in substance misuse. Commissioning should be based upon this evidence using NICE quality standards.
- 3 To be effective, the treatment system should be equipped to respond to the full range of complexity of need represented by those who misuse substances.
- 4 A skilled workforce, working under appropriate supervision and providing care within national competence frameworks, is key to delivering good outcomes.
- 5 Collaboration and partnership gets results. The NHS and voluntary sector have a contribution to make in the delivery of drug and alcohol services.
- 6 Commissioning of drug and alcohol services should be based upon accurate and up to date information about local needs.
- 7 Commissioners should ensure that local services have clear leadership, both clinical and managerial, and that services comply with professional and service standards.
- 8 Commissioning of drug and alcohol services should be outcome based and make use of available data and information.
- 9 Services should place recovery at the centre of their approach and commissioners should recognise recovery as central to their commissioning and strategic decision making.
- 10 Treatment is not simply about patients – it should address the needs of families and carers, and work with patients' wider social networks.

Launched in April 2011, the Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health is comprised of leading organisations who are aiming to inform high-quality mental health and learning disability commissioning in England. The JCP-MH:

- publishes briefings on the key values for effective mental health commissioning
- provides practical guidance and a framework for mental health commissioning
- supports commissioners in commissioning mental health care that delivers the best possible outcomes for health and well being
- brings together service users, carers, clinicians, commissioners, managers and others to deliver the best possible commissioning for mental health and wellbeing.

For further information, please visit [www.jcpmh.info](http://www.jcpmh.info)

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Ten key messages for commissioners

