

Dear Colleague

Mental Health & Deafness – Addressing Basic Rights A service provider information pack

Enclosed you will find a folder containing several documents from the Mental Health Foundation and *Sign*, the National Society for Mental Health and Deafness, raising awareness of the basic rights of deaf people when receiving mental health services. This jointly developed pack gives those commissioning and providing mental health services essential up to date information on mental health and deafness in order to make services more inclusive. Both *Sign* and the Foundation acknowledge and welcome the publication of the Government's *Towards Equity and Access* and look forward to the implementation of the recommendations contained within it, but we see those recommendations as being in addition to more fundamental service elements being in place, and our objective therefore is to try and ensure that you are achieving this level of provision as well.

We particularly welcome the following statement in support of the pack made by Rosie Winterton MP, Minister of State for Health Services, and Liam Byrne MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care Services:

"We very much welcome the publication of this service providers' guide to Mental Health and Deafness. The pack sets out clearly the kind of things that Deaf and deafened people should realistically expect from services and also contains a very useful briefing on the relationship between mental health and deafness. We commend this pack to you and encourage all NHS organisations to endorse the Deaf Mental Health Charter."

The following materials are enclosed:

- Executive briefing on mental health and deafness
- Deaf Mental Health Charter
- Poster – deaf-friendly version of charter
- Fact sheet on specialist mental health services for deaf people

We invite you to read this material and endorse the Charter. We hope that this will lead you to disseminate the poster in reception areas and distribute the other materials to your colleagues as a beginning of a service audit and quality improvement process. You are most welcome to photocopy all enclosures, as we want the widest possible adoption of these principles and hope you will implement inclusive policies in your organisation. You will also find these available on our websites at www.mentalhealth.org.uk/deafcharter and www.signcharity.org.uk. Additional hard copies of the poster are available from *Sign*.

Please complete the attached form and return it to us as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew McCulloch
Chief Executive
Mental Health Foundation



Steven Powell, OBE
Chief Executive
Sign



5 BARING ROAD
BEACONSFIELD
BUCKS. HP9 2NB

voice 01494 687600
minicom 01494 687626
fax 01494 687622
email info@signcharity.org.uk
Charity No. 1011056

Patron: HRH Princess Alexandra The Hon Lady Ogilvy GCVO KG
Chair: David Sachon Chief Executive: Dr Andrew McCulloch
Company Limited by Guarantee No. 2350846 Registered Charity No. 801130

The Mental Health Foundation
Sea Containers House, 20 Upper Ground, London SE1 9QB
Telephone 020 7803 1100 Fax 020 7803 1111
email mhf@mhf.org.uk

www.mentalhealth.org.uk

Reply form

Please complete and return to:

W. Kelly, Health Promotion Coordinator, *Sign*, 5 Baring Rd. Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 2NB

Organisation: _____

Contact name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

We are endorsing the Deaf Mental Health Charter and agree to being publicised as adopters of the charter.

Mental Health Foundation