

UK-Wide Expert Mental Health Group

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose:

- 1.1. To influence Mental Health policy and practice development, embracing it in its wider sense across all organisations; connecting UK wide 4 Countries; representing the voice of mental health nurses
- 1.2. To influence, inform and drive policy, new ideas and use best outcomes to raise Mental Health Nursing profile
- 1.3. To respond to National and Local activities in relation to Mental Health in a timely manner and work with MHN professional networks and forums

2. Activity:

- 2.1. To ensure all work is underpinned by evidence from research and expertise
- 2.2. To offer guidance on how to engage with Mental Health professionals in activities which enhance the profession across the system
- 2.3. Participate in horizon-scanning and long-range planning exercises to help identify emerging challenges and opportunities for the wider profession
- 2.4. To inform and provide expert Mental Health guidance to RCN Nursing Practice Committee and other professional bodies

3. Membership

- 3.1. Membership of this group will be defined by the Core Expert Group
- 3.1 Not all members of this group will be involved in work at the same time however all members will meet twice a year to plan work and agree projects
- 3.2 The Core group will include those from education, research, practice, leadership and policy
- 3.3 All members will meet twice yearly (where members are unable to attend, deputies should represent)
- 3.4 The chair and Deputy roles (to be agreed)
- 3.5 TOR to be reviewed within a year
- 3.6 Invite other Experts and Individuals to be co-opted working groups or work streams with a view to 4-Country representation as required

4. The Role

- Members of the Mental Health Expert Group advise national stakeholders on Mental Health issues

Key responsibilities

- 4.1.1. Provide expert professional advice on Mental Health nursing issues
- 4.1.2. Developing and influencing Mental Health Nursing to support the implementation of the best professional practice and standards of care

- 4.1.3. Furthering the better education of the Mental Health Nursing professional
- 4.1.4. Commissioning and undertaking research in Mental Health Nursing for the purpose of improving Mental Nursing practice and testing and disseminating Mental Health knowledge
- 4.1.5. Commissioning and assuring the quality of project work in priority areas of Mental Health practice and service delivery
- 4.1.6. Shaping and influencing Mental Health locally and nationally, and monitoring and reporting on the impact of such policies on Mental Nursing and patient care

5. Frequency of meetings

To be held 2 times per year

- However frequency of meetings might need to be flexible at particular stages of a programme / programme of work.

6. Quoracy

- Should be flexible in regards to numbers however there must be sufficient representation to ensure decisions can be made and acted up and there is cross cutting membership.