

Bryan Lynch Sussex Partnership NHS FT

Speakers

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We're really beginning to see with things such as trauma informed care and approaches, the social determinants, factor or someone's life is perhaps more important than any other part, and I think this paper is a starting point, the same or social workers are ideally placed out of all professions, to to speak to social determinants and start championing looking at that as a preventative way of approaching mental health rather than the kind of diagnostic way. So when we got the guidance and shared it with our staff in Sussex partnership, we then thought quite long and hard about how we might use it, and how it might be useful for us. We felt that is a good starting point, but we didn't feel like it went far enough. We felt like it was welcoming, identifying where we're at in social work, but it didn't go further enough to say, well, what should social work look like? So in Sussex partnership, we consulted all our 140-150 social workers as to what they thought social work should be like and what it meant, what the key skills and responsibilities are. And over a period of several months and a few meetings, we've

work and got us thinking about social work identity more than anything. So I've got colleagues in similar roles to mine, nationally, I'd encourage you to go and speak to your workforce and use it as an opportunity to say, what does social work mean to you in the first instance? And how best do you think we can work as a profession in this organisation and just get those lines opening? Because once you begin to start defining that and have a coherent message, I think you're more powerful in your organisation and you can do better for your for what you want to do, which is for the service users and carers and families.