



Audit tool for achieving age equality in health and social care

B2.1: Public mental health and prevention

B2.1.1: Assessment and diagnosis of common mental health problems by age

RED

Depression and dementia are widely regarded as being inevitable experiences of old age, there is under use of the range of local mental health services available by older people, and staff do not want to work with older people living with diverse mental health problems. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) does not identify older people with mental health needs. There is no approach to providing advocacy and help to enable choice.

AMBER

Staff across primary and secondary health and social care can recognise the common mental health problems experienced by people of all ages, but there are concerns about the degree to which this is consistently applied for people over 65 and about the services/ support that older people receive. The need for advocacy has been recognised but actual support especially to older people is patchy.

GREEN

Primary healthcare and community teams are trained in the early detection and diagnosis of common mental health problems experienced by people of all ages. They are using locally agreed and recognised protocols, so that diagnosis triggers access to information, advice and counselling support and referrals to secondary care services where necessary. The JSNA is clear about the needs of older people with mental and physical health problems.

B2.1.2: Access to psychological services: proportion of people over 65 accessing/receiving psychological therapy compared to people under 65

RED

There is limited or no access to psychological therapies via primary care or specialist mental health services for people over 65.

AMBER

The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme has been adopted to respond to local needs identified in the JSNA, but this has not yet been fully implemented for all ages.

GREEN

Community mental health teams work closely with primary health and general community teams to ensure that people over 65 have rates of access to psychological therapies that are equivalent to people under 65. There is training for psychological therapists in age-related ways of working (ie how to adapt cognitive behavioural therapy).