

## **Advances in prison mental health**

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### **Abstract:**

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Prison mental health services have improved over the last 15 years in England and Wales, with the advent of mental health in-reach teams. As services have developed through a pathways narrative which has largely been stimulated by policy, the principle of equivalence (i.e. that prisoners should receive the same range and quality of services as they would, were they not in prison) has been a core aim. More recently, developments have emphasised integrated care models, in which services work alongside each other to improve the overall patient/prisoner journey.

This workshop discussed the move towards integration across distinct parts of the prison pathway – reception, induction, referral systems, assessment and the delivery of treatment, recovery and resettlement, and release.

Yet despite these developments, studies have shown variations in models of prison mental health service delivery. Some of these idiosyncracies are presented, with an update on recent literature in the field. The results of a local service evaluation are then used to illustrate service developments on the ground, and discuss whether existing arrangements meet the presenting need.