Foreword

The seven years since the last Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey have seen the start of a major change in the way our society views mental health. A notable shift in public attitudes towards mental health is underway and mental health issues are now widely recognised.

This survey is of the utmost importance. It gives the most comprehensive picture possible of the state of the country’s mental health. We can now start to see the true scale of an issue which has been stigmatised for centuries.

Good quality information is vital when it comes to designing and commissioning services. Across the NHS, police, local government, the voluntary sector and beyond, we know more than we ever have about who is accessing services and the impact of mental health on all our public services. Yet the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey remains one of the most important pieces of research on mental health.

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