

**The 2014 *Somerset* Declaration on improving outcomes for people experiencing mental health crisis 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014**

We, as partner organisations in Somerset, will work together to put in place the principles of the national Concordat to improve the system of care and support so that people in crisis because of a mental health condition are kept safe. We will help them to find the help they need – whatever the circumstances – from whichever of our services they turn to first.

We will work together to prevent crises happening whenever possible, through intervening at an early stage.

We will make sure we meet the needs of vulnerable people in urgent situations, getting the right care at the right time from the right people to make sure of the best outcomes.

We will do our very best to make sure that all relevant public services, contractors and independent sector partners support people with a mental health problem to help them recover. Everybody who signs this declaration will work towards developing ways of sharing information to help front line staff provide better responses to people in crisis.

We are responsible for delivering this commitment in Somerset by putting in place, reviewing and regularly updating the attached action plan.

**This declaration supports 'parity of esteem' (see the glossary) between physical and mental health care in the following ways:**

- Through everyone agreeing a shared 'care pathway' to safely support, assess and manage anyone who asks any of our services in Somerset for help in a crisis. This will result in the best outcomes for people with suspected serious mental illness, provide advice and support for their carers, and make sure that services work together safely and effectively.
- Through agencies working together to improve individuals' experience (professionals, people who use crisis care services, and carers) and reduce the likelihood of harm to the health and wellbeing of patients, carers and professionals.
- By making sure there is a safe and effective service with clear and agreed policies and procedures in place for people in crisis, and that organisations can access the service and refer people to it in the same way as they would for physical health and social care services.
- By all organisations who sign this declaration working together and accepting our responsibilities to reduce the likelihood of future harm to staff, carers, patients and service users or the wider community and to support people's recovery and wellbeing.

**We, the organisations listed below, support this Declaration. We are committed to working together to continue to improve crisis care for people with mental health needs in Somerset.**

**Somerset NHS Clinical Commissioning Group**

**Somerset County Council**

**Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust**

**Avon and Somerset Constabulary**

**South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust**

**Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**

**Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

**Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service**

**Somerset Drug and Alcohol Partnership**





## **Glossary of terms used in this declaration**

<p><b>Concordat</b></p>	<p>A document published by the Government.</p> <p>The Concordat is a shared, agreed statement, signed by senior representatives from all the organisations involved. It covers what needs to happen when people in mental-health crisis need help.</p> <p>It contains a set of agreements made between national organisations, each of which has a formal responsibility of some kind towards people who need help. It also contains an action plan agreed between the organisations who have signed the Concordat.</p> <p>Title: Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat – Improving outcomes for people experiencing mental health crisis          Author: Department of Health and Concordat signatories          Document purpose: Guidance          Publication date: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014</p> <p>Link:  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281242/36353_Mental_Health_Crisis_accessible.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281242/36353_Mental_Health_Crisis_accessible.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Mental health crisis</b></p>	<p>When people – of all ages – with mental health problems urgently need help because of their suicidal behaviour, panic attacks or extreme anxiety, psychotic episodes, or behaviour that seems out of control or irrational and likely to put the person (or other people) in danger.</p>

<b>Parity of esteem</b>	<p>Parity of esteem is when mental health is valued equally with physical health.</p> <p>If people become mentally unwell, the services they use will assess and treat mental health disorders or conditions on a par with physical illnesses.</p> <p>Further information: <a href="http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/qual-clin-lead/pe">http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/qual-clin-lead/pe</a></p>
<b>Recovery</b>	<p>One definition of Recovery within the context of mental health is from Dr. William Anthony:</p> <p>"Recovery is a deeply personal, unique process changing one's attitude, values, feelings, goals, skills, and/or roles.</p> <p>It is a way of living a satisfying, hopeful, and contributing life.</p> <p>Recovery involves the development of new meaning and purpose in one's life as one grows beyond the catastrophic effects of psychiatric disability" (Anthony, 1993)</p> <p>Further information <a href="http://www.imroc.org/">http://www.imroc.org/</a></p>

Signature Sheet

Organisation	Name	Signature
<p>Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group</p> 	<p>Dr Matthew Dolman, Chairman</p>	
<p>Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust</p> 	<p>Edward Colgan, Chief Executive</p>	
<p>Somerset County Council</p> 	<p>Kim Curry, Interim Director of Adult Social Services, Lead Commissioner Adults and Health</p> <p>Trudi Grant, MSc PH, UKPHR, FFPH Director of Public Health</p>	  
<p>Avon and Somerset Constabulary</p>	<p>John Long, Acting Chief Constable</p>	
<p>Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner</p>	<p>Sue Mountstevens, Police and Crime Commissioner</p>	

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust	Ken Wenman Chief Executive	
Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	Jo Cubbon, Chief Executive	
Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Paul Meers, Chief Executive	
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue	Lee Howell	
Somerset Drug and Alcohol Partnership	Trudi Grant, MSc PH, UKPHR, FFPH  Director of Public Health	