









Mental health nursing: a profession that must be valued |

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## Independent Sector - inpatient services

People with severe and enduring mental ill-health may need to be cared for in low, medium or high secure inpatient facilities. The y can receive this care in NHS hospitals and the independent sector, including private hospitals, charities and social enterprise.

The reduction of NHS inpatient mental health beds in Wales has caused a surge in demand for independent sector beds. Since 2010, the number of mental health beds has decreased from 1,919 to 1,393. However, in 2019-2020 there were a recorded 7,466 people admitted to mental health facilities in Wales, including the admission of patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislations.

In addition to this, the reduction of secure beds links to the number of people in prison. The limited number of secure beds often means that while someone in a prison has been identi Þed as needing a secure bed, they are unable to get one and remain in prison, which leads to a deterioration of their mental health.

The Making Days Count report identi bed that at the time of the audit the proportion of

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"I've always been interested in mental health, have family who live with alcoholism, autism, schizophrenia, EUPD, and I have ADHD. I wanted to use these experiences to support those that suffer by providing tools to improve quality of life outcomes. The need for mental health nurses was apparent in my community and the development of the beld is vital to battle the everincreasing need for mental health services in Wales." Dominic Smith, Third Year Student Nurse (Mental Health)

"It felt natural to my personality and interest in people's emotional needs"

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However, the framework covers the period 2018-2028 and is still valid. RCN Wales believes the framework should sit alongside HEIW and SCW's mental health workforce strategy. This would ensure that the importance of mental health nursing is recognised and given the same pro Ple as mental health nursing in England.



## Conclusion

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organisation. *Mental Health.* Available here: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-strengthening-our-response. Accessed 24 April 2023.

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organisation. *Mental Disorders*. Available here: Mental disorders (who.int). Accessed 24 April 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Welsh Government, 2020. *Review of Evidence on all-age Mental Health Services*. Available here: https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2020-06/review-of-evidence-on-all-age-mental-health-servicessummary.pdf. Accessed 24 April 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Welsh Government, 2012. *Together for Mental Health: Summary*. Available here: together-for-mental-health-summary.pdf (gov.wales). Accessed 20 April 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Cardiff University, 2021. *COVID-19 in Wales: The Mental Health and Wellbeing impact.* Available here: COVID-19-Mental-health-FINAL-08-07-2021.pdf (cardiff.ac.uk). Accessed 19 April 2023.

<sup>6</sup> Welsh Government, 2023. Admission to mental health facilities. Available here: Admissions to mental health facilities (gov.wales). Accessed 12 April 2023.

<sup>7</sup> Welsh Government, 2023. *NHS beds by specialty and year, 2009-10 onwards*. Available here:

https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Activity/NHS-Beds/nhsbeds-by-specialty. Accessed 14 April 2023.

<sup>8</sup> Welsh Government, 2023. Patients on Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) disease registers by local health board. Available here: Patients on Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) disease registers by local health board (gov.wales). Accessed 23 April 2023.
<sup>9</sup> Welsh Government, 2023. Section 135 and 136 Detentions by local health board, assessment outcome and guarter Section 135

and 136 Detentions by local health board, assessment outcome and quarter (gov.wales)

<sup>10</sup> Welsh Government, 2023.

