

**Mental**  
2021-2031 **Health**  
**Strategy**



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

# **Mental Health Strategy**

## **2021-2031**

### **Co-design and co-production principles**

## Background

1. The Mental Health Strategy 2021 – 31 was the result of genuine co-production across a broad range of stakeholders, including people with lived experience, carers, service users, health and social care professionals, academics, the voluntary and community sector, professional bodies and many others.
2. Several hundred people were involved in the development of the Strategy through participation in meetings, through workshops, at online events, through direct communication with staff in the Department. This is in addition to the formal public consultation, to which over 400 responses were received.
3. Without the involvement and support of these stakeholders, the work to develop the Strategy would not have been possible.

## Implementation of the Mental Health Strategy 2021 – 31

4. The Department remains fully committed to co-design and co-production, and to continuing on this path during the implementation of the Strategy.
5. With that in mind, we have developed a number of co-design and co-production principles which represent the basis on which each of the actions contained in the Strategy should be progressed and implemented.
6. It should be noted that these principles do not seek to supersede or replace existing Department of Health (DoH) co-production guidance, available on the DoH website: [Co-production Guide - Connecting and Realising Value through People](#). Instead, they should be read in conjunction with same and serve as a statement of intent regarding the collective commitment to co-design and co-production of all those involved in the implementation of the Mental Health Strategy 2021 – 31.

## Co-design and co-production principles

7. Co-design and co-production will continue to be embedded as a core practice in the implementation of the Mental Health Strategy 2021 - 31 and the expectation is that all those involved will demonstrate a commitment to doing so and in line with the broad principles set out below.

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## ***MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2021 – 31***

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### ***CO-DESIGN AND CO-PRODUCTION PRINCIPLES***

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***We recognise and value the contribution and experience of all stakeholders including, but not limited to: carers, families, services users, people with lived experience, professional bodies, those working in an HSC setting, academia, other government Departments, community and voluntary sector organisations***

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***We create space and provide appropriate support and training to bring together different and representative perspectives and to ensure that people are heard***

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***We view all participants as experts and their input is valued and has equal standing***

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***We harness the efforts and work of all people and organisations who have something to contribute***

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***We embrace and respect diversity and difference and learn from it***

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***We identify issues as a means to finding solutions and improvements, rather than barriers to progress***

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8. By harnessing the collective efforts of a wide and varied mix of stakeholders we can all work together in partnership in implementing the Mental Health Strategy and improving outcomes for the people of Northern Ireland.

**Mental Health Directorate**  
**Department of Health**  
**June 2022**