Brexit, the NHS and mental health

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NHS European Office – what we do

• Represent the English NHS in EU affairs
• Part of the NHS Confederation

Core activities:

• Influence EU policy and legislation in interests of the NHS
• Help NHS organisations access EU funding
• Facilitate cross-European collaboration/exchange of good practice

...but since 24 June also Brexit work…
Government’s Brexit position

• Control migration top priority, but continue to attract the best and brightest
• Cease membership of the EU single market (as incompatible with control of migration from the EU)
• Leave the European Medicines Agency system
• Seek comprehensive FTA with the EU (removing as many trade barriers as possible), and with other world economies
• Possibly stay in (and contribute to) specific EU programmes (e.g. R&D)
• No deal better than a bad deal!
Britain to leave the EU: what happens next?

The official British divorce from Europe would take at least two years

**Referendum** on leaving or remaining in the European Union

- **23 June 2016**

51.9% vote to leave

- London
- Article 50 of the 2009 Lisbon Treaty (which governs how a country can exit the EU) is triggered

- The European Council

- European Parliament

- Time period
  - 2 years

- European treaties cease to be applicable to Britain

- Agreement
  - Automatic exit
  - Decision to extend this period
  - Agreement

- Agreed by qualified majority

- If no withdrawal agreement after 2 years

- “WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT”

- Must approve

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The NHS context

- Massive financial and service pressures
- Bed occupancy level and A&E crisis
- Five Year Forward View
- New models of care
- Integrated health & social care
- Service re-design: STPs
- Seven-day services

Add Brexit to the pot……..
For the NHS BREXIT means impact on...

**Budget** - effect of economic slowdown on NHS funding?

**Research** - NHS participation in EU collaborative research?

**Employment** – NHS ability to retain and recruit EU workers?

**X-border healthcare** - patients receiving healthcare abroad?

**Innovation** – early adoption of innovation in NHS?

**Trials** – participation of NHS patients in EU clinical trials?
...and for mental health sector....

Same areas of impact, but with some specific aspects to take into account
Increased service pressure?

- Impact on personal life & rights of many people
- Increase in referrals for anxiety or depression?
- Continuation of reciprocal healthcare arrangements? – 190,000 UK pensioners in EU
- Parity of esteem – impact of economic slowdown?
Access to innovative treatments?

• Just around 6% of the total UK health research spend goes into mental health – the EU fills the gap!
• EU: the largest single funder of mental health research in Europe and one of the 10 largest funders globally
• FP7 invested €1.92bl in brain research in 2007-12
• Benefits for NHS trusts & patients
• No EMA system: delay in access to new medicines in future
Shortage of staff?

• 58,000 EU staff in NHS
• About 10% of medical workforce
• Higher % in London/SE & in some specialties
• Psychiatry around 13%
• Over a third (41%) of doctors in psychiatry training are non-UK graduates
• Significant overseas nursing recruitment in some MH trusts
• 7% of adult social care workforce
Brexit milestones

- Brexit notification to Brussels by end March, starting process
- EU rules apply for another two years (at least)
- Transitional arrangements / phased-in approach (including in immigration controls) to avoid cliff edge?
- UK-EU Free Trade Agreement – how much regulatory convergence will be maintained to facilitate trade?

NHS voice to be heard throughout negotiations process!
To be kept informed: www.nhsconfed.org/nhsandbrentx
@nhsconfed_EU

Register for our BREXIT Bulletin
http://www.nhsconfed.org/register