

David Bradley and Carla Fourie South London and Maudsley NHS FT

Speakers

Carla Fourie, David Bradley

David Bradley 00:15

Yeah, Carla, this strategy that we've developed in the organisation, to be an outstanding organisation and ambition to be the best mental health organisation in the country. We've got a timeframe of this within the next five years. And I, you know, we've set out within this, that we need to do some things differently. It's not just about doing the same things, we've got to get more into prevention, we have to be building up trust with local communities. And we have to have a different workforce to be able to do that. We've talked about how we get more into preventative measures. And that's where we really see social care roles, peer support workers, lots of things like this, that will help us.

Carla Fourie 00:59

And we've got really good relationships also with our our local authorities.

David Bradley 01:03

We have got these good relationships. And that partnership is absolutely fundamental. But I also think what we've got to do is recognise, recognise some of the realities, there's been there's been a major reduction in terms of some of the funding that local authorities have had over the last 10 years or so. And I think that NHS have got to step into some of these roles now and really look in terms of what do we do about creating the workforce that that is able to meet the challenges that we've got. We can't do this unless we're working in partnership. But I think we can get better in the NHS around how we do that and work in partnership, and recognising this role of social work and social that the the really valuable contribution it makes means that we've got to really strengthen that leadership within the NHS organisations, and we're doing that at SLAM, you're the Director of Social Care in the organisation, we've created a Director of Therapists that's on the board. And we've really got to make sure that it's a strong voice within the organisation. And there's that governance is in there. So that, you know, social care is recognised. It's it's a, it's a profession that needs to be on a par with what we have for nursing and psychologists, other professional staff, so I think it's really important that we have that strength internally as well.

Carla Fourie 02:31

I think the the guidance that was developed through HEE around guidance for NHS that directly employ social workers is really so helpful, because it gives us a focus point. And it tells us a little bit about the the the what and the how to best support social workers and that workforce so that they can develop to their full potential and provide that holistic care that we so really, you know, that is such a strong ambition for us to deliver.

David Bradley 03:03

Yeah, I agree. And look guidance when you get this, it's really important. And it's it's helped this guidance is particularly helpful. And I think that what we've got to make sure across the country now is that we start to use this and start to use this consistently. It's no good if, you know, just a couple of organisations do some of this, we need to use this as a template around it, and it's really helpful. You read it, it's got some really practical information in there about how to do these things. And, you know, as I say, I think it's really important that that's recognised within NHS organisations across the country and we start to use it and actually use it as a tool. There's so many of these things get put on the shelves. But you know, this is really practical, and we need to start to use this, as I say, in a consistent way that we can make the most of this.