In April 2021, the NIHR National Mental Health Implementation Network, a network of organisations working in mental health care and research, invited a range of stakeholders to identify particular areas of mental health care in England where there is unmet need, and which could be addressed through existing evidence-based solutions at scale. The aim was to prioritise three high-impact solutions for unmet needs in mental health care in England and to support their implementation.

needs

## How will we get to the top three solutions?

We began by establishing a steering group within the National Mental Health Implementation Network to lead the process of identifying unmet mental health needs and potential solutions.

**Aim:** To identify solutions likely to have a high impact on both the needs of individual patients and health and care systems, and with the potential for regional and national implementation.

**Methods:** The steering group developed a six-stage process for identifying the top three solutions:

group.

Step Step 2 Step Step Step 5 Step April 2021 **April 2021** April 2021 May 2021 May 2021 June 2021 Systematic scoping Structured **Identifying common Expert opinion** Systematic scoping **Decision-making** themes and priorities: review, part 1: review part 2: survey: workshop: survey: We undertook a systematic We designed a survey to Analysing the results from In parallel with steps 1 The expert opinion survey We will discuss and prioritise scoping review of previous gather information on areas and 2, we carried out an steps 1-3, we developed asked key stakeholders to the final 10 solutions at an exhaustive list of unmet identify 10 solutions they prioritisation studies carried of unmet needs in mental extensive scoping review a consensus workshop needs and priorities. We out in England since 2015. health from a broad range think should be prioritised. in June 2021 attended to gather information on chose the largest six themes We identified them using of key individuals involved Each stakeholder was asked the prevalence of mental by 20-30 stakeholders. identified in the literature research databases and in mental health care. disorders (by geographical to rank the 22 priorities including members of the through consultation with reviews: according to a set of criteria network, patient and public including key stakeholders location. health or care from NHS Trusts, social and children and young people developed iteratively within key stakeholders. setting, social experience, representatives, and health educational services. NIHR comorbidities the network, and based and clinical classification): and care professionals. The inequalities networks, and mental health on NIHR priorities for the prevention and treatment aim is to identify the top talking therapies, charities in England. options; and the economic ARCs. three high-impact solutions. suicide/self-harm and societal impact severe mental illness. associated with the The final decision disorders. on which solutions to take forward will be taken by the NIHR National 78 individuals 67 relevant 26 relevant 22 priorities **10** solutions Mental Health studies responded. identified across prioritised studies Implementation identified identifying identified six themes. and Network executive 93 unmet mapped against and its advisory

**NICE** guidelines