

# PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE USE OF ADDITIONAL CMDHB MENTAL HEALTH FUNDS

Endorsed by the Counties Manukau MHAN Committee

## Principles

Overarching principles that will guide the allocation of Blueprint funding are:

- An emphasis on community based interventions that support people to manage their own illnesses in the least restrictive environment
- Equity of access for people using mental health services (within CMDHB and within greater Auckland)
- A focus on meeting people's needs
- Priority for people with the most serious mental health problems
- Assessed needs and population characteristics will drive the allocation of funding
- Enhancing NGO and primary care capacity and capability
- Contribution to regional services will be made in accordance with priorities agreed by the regional planning and funding team
- Enhancing collaboration between providers to simplify/improve service delivery and access

The following are the proposed specific principles that would be used to calculate the apportionment of any additional mental health funds:

- **Regional consistency in level of access:** New funds for CMDHB will be applied in such a way as to move service levels in CMDHB toward the average levels provided by other Auckland DHBs in order to ensure people around Auckland can access similar levels of service.
- **Equity with respect to distance from Blueprint Benchmarks:** New funds for CMDHB will be applied in such a way as to afford greater priority to service areas that are furthest from Blueprint benchmarks in order to ensure people within Counties Manukau can access similar levels of service relative to Blueprint benchmarks
- **Equity for Maori:** Additional funds will be applied in such a way as to ensure community<sup>1</sup> services specifically for Maori achieve Government's target<sup>2</sup> of at least 50% of adult tangata whaiora accessing services having a choice of mainstream or Kaupapa Maori community mental health services. An assumption is made that Maori accessing services will require 50% more service than non-Maori require.

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<sup>1</sup> All services other than inpatient services (including regional bed bureau and general hospital liaison) and small, specialised services – i.e. dual disability team,

<sup>2</sup> (expressed in the Maori Mental Health National Strategic Framework *Te Puawaitanga*)

- **Enhanced services for Pacific people:** Ideally, additional funds will in future be applied in such a way as to reflect both consumer need and consumer choice, i.e. as long as there are people who
  - are eligible for a service *and*
  - would choose by Pacific for Pacific provision *and*
  - are unable to access such a service as a result of insufficient service levelsthere will continue to be growth in those “by Pacific for Pacific” services. We do not currently have good information to determine current need and choice. It is therefore it is proposed that we use the assumptions laid out in the Mental Health Commission 2001 publication *Pacific Mental Health Services and Workforce: Moving on the Blueprint*, i.e. that 50 percent of the Pacific population might choose to use a dedicated Pacific service in their area, if available.
- **Sustainable growth:** Once planned service levels have been identified using the above principles, where services have insufficient workforce available to recruit to planned levels, planned service growth will be adjusted downward to a level that is realistically achievable. In this circumstance the intent is to further move toward equity in subsequent years.
- **Prioritised service developments:** CM-MHAN Committee will identify prioritised local developments for Blueprint funding each year
- **Building infrastructure:** There is a pressing need to build the infrastructure capable of delivering the new services and enhancing existing service delivery. For this reason, implementation of new services will be phased in such a way as to ensure the availability of some one-off funding to support infrastructure development across the district (workforce development, information system development, other mental health development work)