



Public Mental Health Today

A handbook

Edited by Isabella Goldie

Mental Health Foundation

Pavilion



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Chapter 5

Improving public mental health: the European context

Chris O'Sullivan

Introduction

Active international collaboration provides an opportunity for development and for nurturing of ideas and practice across a range of policy and practice environments. There is a natural affinity between English speaking nations, and an 'active transfer market' exists between the countries of the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States and Ireland. Examples of this include initiatives such as mental health first aid, applied suicide intervention skills training (ASIST), and peer support in recovery, which have been adapted for a UK practice and policy environment from these countries. In turn, UK initiatives have been exported to other countries. With the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) providing a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience across these nations.

Of less immediate currency are the opportunities for transfer of practice and policy initiatives between European nations, many of whom have a fundamental connection to the UK, to the extent that their health and social protection systems are similarly constructed or are facing similar challenges. In turn, there are European nations that have provided examples of good practice, which have been of interest to the UK.

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