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Module: LCHS4003 – Introduction to Health and Social Care.

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Component 1 & 2.

It's good to talk.

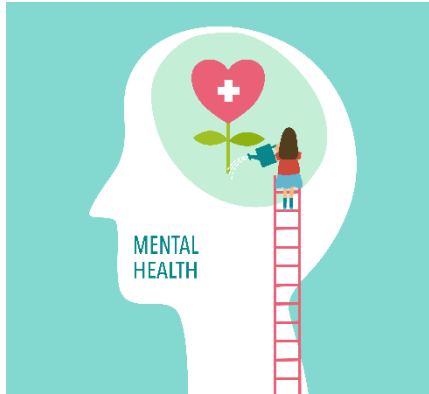


Image: Amsa.org

The service: Community mental health services help to support thousands of people every day. They offer a range of support including Counselling, CBT Therapy and Crisis Prevention. History: Before the NHS was established, people suffering from mental health conditions were often “treated” in places known as Insane Asylums. In 2008 – “The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme was launched to transform the treatment of anxiety and depression, the service was known as Healthy Minds” (NHS 2025).

Current function: Today, services trying to treat mental health are still suffering due to a lack of funding and increased demand for help. This is all leading to long wait times and negligent care. According to statistics gathered by Mind.org. “Research suggests that attitudes to mental health are backsliding after years of improvement”. Many people suffering are worried of being judged or stigmatised even by professionals.



Image: Vectorstock.com

The prevalence of mental disorders among 5–15-year-olds has increased over time

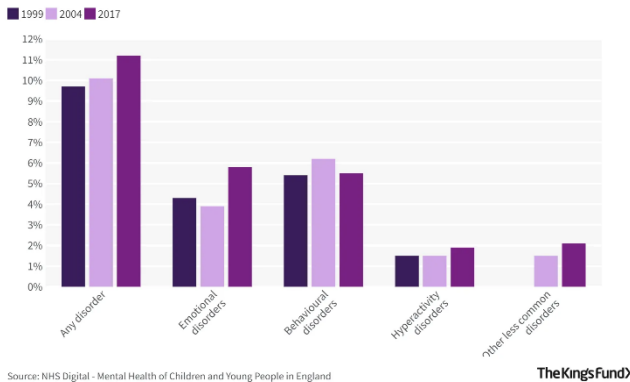


Image: kingsfund.org.uk

Challenges: There are many hurdles that the NHS and mental health charities are trying to overcome but there is a sheer increase in people suffering with mental health disorders. The image shows the factual statistical rise over time of those suffering from certain disorders. This is rising every year causing endless pressure and strain on all UK mental health services.

Challenges: One of the main challenges today in mental health services are the long wait times which have not improved. Often people seeking help require immediate intervention to prevent further deterioration. The current stats are shown here. Despite the variety of multiple services offered, most are run by charities who do not receive any kind of government funding but even the NHS registered services are also experiencing lack of funding and increased demand. The delay in treatment often leads cases to reach an A&E crisis level which affects hospitals all over the United Kingdom.



Image: www.rcpsych.ac.uk

Investigation and Evaluation into the Ambulance service in the United Kingdom.

Ambulance services began to show up around the 18th century. Staffordshire General infirmary had their own carriage hung up by strings drawn by a horse to carry injured patients to the hospital. *The Liverpool Medical Institution*. In 1775, Scotland established their first ambulance service. *The Liverpool Medical Institution* states that in Roman Britain “Teams carrying bandages and water bottles ride behind fighting lines, bearing away the injured. Horse and foot soldiers earned a piece of gold for each life saved”. Since then, the ambulance service has come a long way with many improvements and advances in life saving equipment/medicine to be used on scene. One of the biggest developments were the introduction of motorised vehicles which were introduced in 1930 in London. *Hutchinson Steve, EMS UK learning. (Mar 26, 2023)*. The introduction of these vehicles was a crucial aid in saving lives and has continued to contribute to life saving care to this day.

Not only motorised vehicles were introduced. The Air ambulance was introduced in 2003, much later but crucially needed in certain circumstances. For example, people injured atop mountains during hikes that normal ambulances cannot access. “Our helicopters fly at 185mph, carrying the latest lifesaving equipment and crewed by expert critical care paramedics, doctors and pilots; all trained to respond to the most serious emergencies” *AirAmbulanceservice.org.uk (2025)*. Unfortunately, this service is completely run on donations as it is a charity, not receiving funding from the government like NHS ambulance services do.

The progression of science and medicine has driven the development of the ambulance service as well. In historical times, there was no oxygen tanks, adrenaline injections and CPAP machines. This naturally would've resulted in higher mortality rates compared to today. There are 7 key pieces of equipment required in every ambulance according to *EMA Patient Transport* these are “Oxygen cylinders, wheelchair, a specialist stretcher, monitoring equipment, first aid kit and entertainment equipment”. All these items are things that have come purely through advances in science and medicine to treat patients.

Today, there are multiple districts of ambulance services that operate all over the United Kingdom. Currently there is an extreme strain on the service with the increased population today, causing the need for more funding, employment and organisation. "As we have been consistently warning for a number of years, hospital handover delays continue to cause serious problems that directly impact ambulance service performance and waiting times for patients and cause untold, inexcusable additional harm" Jason Killens (AACE.org.uk. 2024). Plenty of issues happening inside of hospitals are impacting the function of the ambulance service leading to additional pressure and unintentional unavoidable harm towards patients.

The ambulance services are one of the main first responders to any crisis, time is their main concern hence the sirens. It is vital that paramedics get to a scene as fast as possible to prevent any further deterioration of a patient and to improve future recovery. The faster ambulances can arrive at a case then the faster access to life saving medicine can begin. Not only during a 999 crisis, but they also provide transport to anyone suffering from terminal illness and those unable to access transport to hospital themselves like the elderly or bed bound patients. The ambulance services provide a myriad of services, including planned transfers between locations, emergency transfers to hospitals and verification of deaths. *NHS (2025).*

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