Board Updates: The six new test site boards gave a brief update on their progress so far. There were common themes throughout the presentations – supporting a change in culture, policy, MDT involvement, respect and dignity for patients, activity and therapeutic interventions, raising awareness, reduction in patient observations and enthusiasm for change.

Aims of the day – All Teach, All Learn
The aim of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the IOP Leads to network with each other, to learn from each other’s experiences implementing improved observation practice. Representatives from almost all of the 12 test site boards, and the Priory Group, were able to attend on the day. The IOP Leads were asked to decide the focus for the workshop discussions in the afternoon – after consideration the topics chosen were policy development, staff engagement, spread and staff training.

Clinical Pause: Dr Gordon Skilling, from The State Hospital Boards for Scotland, spoke with the IOP Leads on the undoubted benefits of the clinical pause and how it has been implemented within the State Hospital environment. “It gives us permission to stop and think about a patient in a considered way” “It prevents unnecessary increase in observation status”

Workshop Group Discussion
There were engaging discussions during the workshops, it was clear during the feedback how the topics connected and would spread the guidance: From Observation to Intervention.

Policy Development:
• Person-centred, develop in-line with the new guidance within the local context and to engage other services such as CAMHS, Older Adult, Perinatal and Community

Staff Training:
• Induction process for old and new staff, MDT based, including pre-registration
• Clarity on aims/expectations – simple terminology, local policy linked to training, for all levels as everyone’s business
• Involve carers and patients – patient stories
• National resource – standardised, LearnPro, Turas, Train the Trainer and link to other organisations

Staff Engagement:
• Training – awareness sessions, workshops or development days
• Leadership – at all levels to drive change, to empower staff and promote positive risk taking, IOP Champions
• Share current good practice and progress - provide reflection, praise staff and include case studies on the impact of IOP on patients
IOP Lead Feedback

What will you take away from the networking meeting?

“Keen to explore clinical pause”
“Many ideas about sharing”
“The need to keep in touch with other IOP Leads in boards and HIS”
“A little more confident spreading work to other wards”

100% felt involved throughout the day*
100% felt they had sufficient time/opportunity to strengthen and/or expand their network of colleagues involved in IOP*
100% enjoyed the networking meeting*

*based on 14 completed evaluations received from 15 attendees

What worked well?

“Small groups helped build relationships with other leads”
“Board updates, new ideas recognising lots of good work already in practice, positive attitudes and values throughout group”
“Dr Skilling’s presentation was excellent”

Next Steps to March 2019

Week beginning 3rd December a PDF version of the final Guidance document will be shared.
Week beginning 17th December the Guidance, a summarised version and an updated change action package will be available on the ihub website.
Week beginning 14th January will see the official launch of the Guidance with a communication campaign, printed copies will be available.
Future resources will include posters and handy guides to support implementation of the guidance.

Any queries regarding SPSP-IOP should be sent to the mental health national team mailbox - (spsp-mentalhealthteam.hcis@nhs.net)