Primary Care Mental Health

Second edition
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Edited by

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Cambridge University Press
978-1-911-62302-1 — Primary Care Mental Health
Edited by Linda Gask, Tony Kendrick, Robert Peveler, Carolyn A. Chew-Graham
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Preface

We were delighted to be invited by the Royal College of Psychiatrists to produce a second edition of this book, which has proved to be an important resource for clinicians, commissioners and policy makers in the emerging field of primary care mental health. However, we were also very sad that our original collaborator, the late Professor Helen Lester, who played such a large part in the success of the first edition, is no longer with us. Helen was passionate about the importance of treating people with severe mental illness in primary care and worked phenomenally hard to further the cause of better mental and physical health care for people with long-term mental health problems. She is much missed by her friends and colleagues and we remember the enormous energy she devoted to getting this book into print. For the second edition we are very pleased to welcome onto the editorial team Professor Carolyn A. Chew-Graham, an outstanding primary care mental health researcher, clinician and professional leader. Carolyn was a contributing author to the first edition of this book. We have retained the same overall structure consisting of four main sections: conceptual basis of primary care mental health and overarching themes, clinical issues, policy and practice and, to conclude, reflective practice. Most of the chapters have been substantially revised and we have included new topics, which have grown in importance since the previous edition, such as the mental health of people with long-term conditions and the provision of primary mental health care in prisons. There are also many new authors who have been involved in either revising or completely rewriting chapters. We hope that this new edition will continue to be of help to those of us who may be perceived by our colleagues to work on the ‘edge’ of primary care or psychiatry, but have actually been at the epicentre of innovations that will improve the lives of the great majority of people with mental health problems, who are cared for in primary care.

Linda Gask, Tony Kendrick, Robert Peveler and Carolyn A. Chew-Graham

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