

### PROMOTING WELLBEING IN YOUTH WORK PRACTICE







# What is Right Here?

- Five-year programme, jointly run by Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the Mental Health Foundation, ending in 2014
- Aim: to develop effective new approaches to supporting mental health and wellbeing of young people, aged 16 25 and to replicate these as appropriate (Foyer Federation)
- Strands: 1) to raise awareness of good mental health among all young people 2) to provide targeted, early support for those at risk of developing mental health problems 3) to tackle stigma



# Methodology

- Action research with cross-sector pilots in different locations and with different target groups: Brighton, Fermanagh, Newham and Sheffield
- Evaluation from the start and opportunities to exchange learning and best practice
- + Innovation Labs with Comic Relief and Nominet Trust and Healthy Conversations with Foyer Federation



# Principles and beliefs

- All young people have mental health needs
- Young people must be partners in service design, delivery, and influencing
- Youth organisations have an important role to play in supporting mental health and wellbeing but sometimes need extra help to do so
- MH and wellbeing support should be provided early on in accessible and acceptable community settings from those whom yp trust



Why?

- Rates of mental ill-health among young people in the UK are concerning
- Adolescence and early adulthood peak times of onset of mental ill heath and period when there is need for effective early care
- The right care at the right time can prevent mental ill health in the future and save money
- BUT young people have lowest service access of any age group: adult services often not designed or delivered in ways that suit young people, and stigma associated with mental health problems can stop young people from seeking help



# In their own words ...

- 'NHS services think they are a series of entrances to getting help but they're actually a series of barriers'
- 'I don't want people to think I'm crazy'
- 'Mainstream health services aren't available when I need them, they don't treat me with respect, and they make me feel more isolated and alone'
- 'Young people are treated like suitcases ...passed around services.'



# The RH alternative

- Youth participation and co-design generating better mental health, new skills and relationships for participants, and more accessible and responsive services
- Young volunteers, with help from professionals, design, deliver, commission and evaluate activities and campaign for better youth mental health services

### Activities and campaigns co-designed by Right Here young people





# The RH alternative

- Joining youth and mental health work
- Cross-fertilisation of skills, ideas, and processes creates accessible services/activities which:
- young people want to participate in and which they can help develop and deliver
  - 2) reach those at risk of developing mh problems
  - 3) offer youth work staff chance to receive support where needed
- 4) build better mental health
- 5) Mental health professionals gain too!

"We need common sense and the human touch not a person being clinical" (Young person, Right Here Sheffield)

### How to ...

promote mental wellbeing in youth work (1)

- Get to know mental health services in your area and build links with them to:
- ✓ learn about mental wellbeing and how to support it.
  <u>www.wellinformed.org.uk</u> can help
- ✓ host or recruit a counsellor or therapist
- $\checkmark$  get support, clinical supervision and training for staff
- ✓ find out who to contact if support needs are urgent or further support is needed. See <u>www.findgetgive.com</u>
- Create long term partnerships for an integrated and sustainable young people's wellbeing service

### How to ...

promote mental wellbeing in youth work (2)

- Provide fun activities, which you know will appeal to young people, and look for the mental health hook in them.
- Group physical activities like rock-climbing (Brighton), noncontact boxing (Newham), and fishing (Fermanagh), Walk and Talk (Sheffield and Brighton) have physical AND mental health benefits, boosting mood and building relationships
- Try participative arts activities, such as comedy and music production workshops (Brighton), drama and film-making (Newham) too
- See <u>http://www.right-here.org.uk/resource-centre/</u> for case study examples and research evidence

### How to ...

promote mental wellbeing in youth work (3)

- Mind the language you use, and how and when you initiate conversations about mental health
- Key message 'everyone has mental health'
- Create easy referral routes between group activities and one-to-one therapeutic support (Right Here Sheffield)
- Support young people with mh issues to take part in activities through: contacting them to talk about what's available; keeping in touch before and after activities (text, phone, email); being flexible about attendance; going with them to a meeting or activity

#### How to ... ERE promote mental wellbeing in youth work (4)

- Evaluate the mental health impact of your activities to ensure you're doing the best job you can and to gain credibility with commissioners and potential partners
- Options: standardized questionnaires; supporting young people to define what they want through goals-based scales; qualitative methods such as focus groups, interviews, or creative approaches to find out which goals have been met.



Sheffield: cross -fertilisation of youth and mental health work

- Youth workers and therapists worked together from the start to create therapeutic youth work programmes and a range of creative and participative activities for young people, such as STAMP, Dare you Share, Cage the Rage.
- Focus on activities, not diagnoses, and providing a variety of options from awareness-raising to group and one-to-one therapeutic sessions to meet all needs
- Cross-referrals from group to one-to-one and vice versa
- New model of service delivery welcomed by local commissioners



## What's next?

- Activities and approaches continue in 4 sites with local support
- Interim evaluation results show positive impacts on young people, local practice and policy
- Final evaluation results, Autumn 2014
- Series of How to ... Guides, bringing together learning from RH. First, for youth workers, just launched. Training for youth workers provided with UK Youth
- Foundations and sites continue to make case for new approaches to protecting and supporting young people's mental health.

### Dan Harris

### Young Person, Innovation Labs Project Board

# **INNOVATIONLABS**



nominettrust







# What is Innovation Labs?

- 3 year initiative (2011-14)
- Aim to create digital tools for young people's mental health and wellbeing
- Built on Right Here principles
- Jointly funded and managed by Paul Hamlyn Foundation (Right Here), Comic Relief and Nominet Trust
- Young people involved from the start

### **INNOVATION LABS** Phase 1: The Labs!

- 2 physical 'Lab' days and a 3 month incubation period between
- Lab 1: 65 people incl. 40 young people, 194 ideas
- Incubation phase: 100 people incl. 50 young people, 12 ideas selected
- Lab 2: 50 people incl. 25 young people: from 12 ideas to 8 paper prototypes.
- Process delivered by the Cernis partnership



# Love & Mental Health

#### The brief:

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Design a website or mobile app that provides advice on communicating including dealing with shypess, dating and relationships,

#### Aimed at: yourself in

- 1. People who currently havemental health issues, or have recently recovered
- 2. The service would also include advice for their partners
- 3. Singles

#### Things to consider:

What are the difficulties that a person with mental health issue encounters in
 finding a partner

#### Tips:

- Decide at the beginning if this should be a website or a mobile app
- You only have a day so keep it focused and simple
- Should this be one big website or two separate sections, one for partners and one for people diagnosed with a MH condition?





#### **INNOVATIONLABS**

## Phase 2: Product development through grant programme

# nominettrust





# The 7 Funded Projects and organisations

Headmeds: <u>www.headmeds.org.uk</u> Young Minds

In Hand: (App) FACT

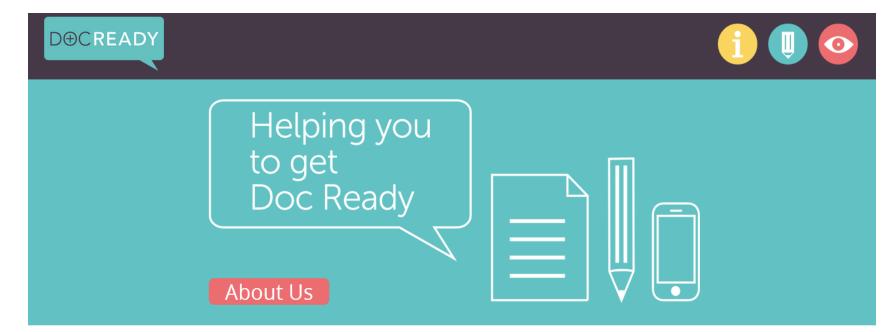
Mood Bug: (App) MindApples Madly in Love: <u>www.madlyinlove.org.uk</u> *YouthNet* 

Well Informed: <u>www.wellinformed.org.uk</u> *Sixteen25* 

Doc Ready: www.docready.org Enabled by Design

Find Get Give: <u>www.findgetgive.com</u> Sussex Central YMCA (RH Brighton & Hove with Sheffield and Newham)

### INNOVATION LABS DocReady.org



We know that it can be difficult to talk to people when you're having difficulties with your mental health. Doc Ready helps you get ready for the first time you visit a doctor to discuss your mental health.

Info & Advice



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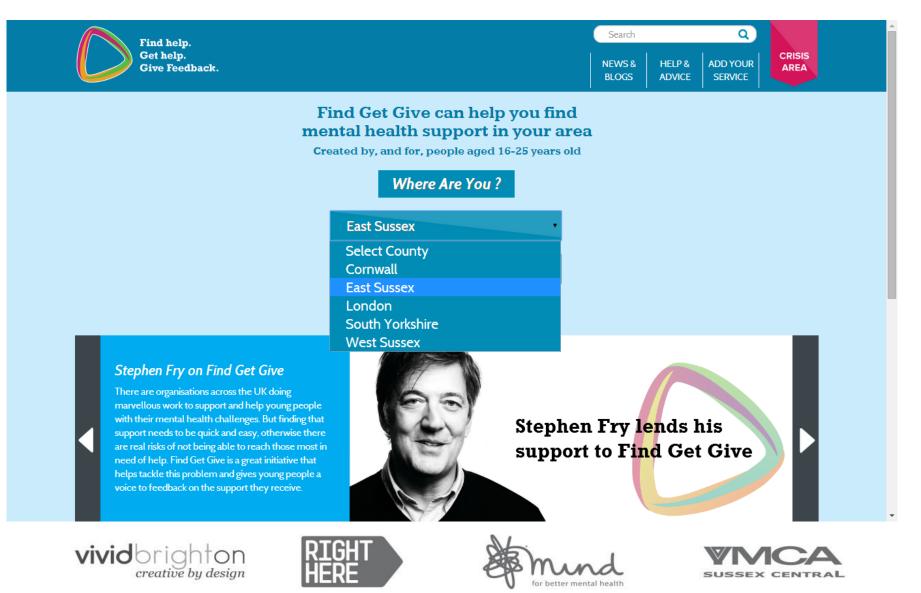
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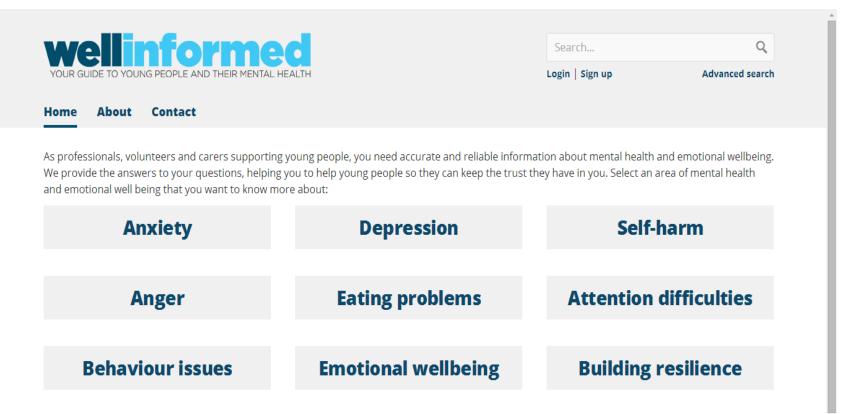




### INNOVATION LABS FindGetGive.com



### INNOVATION LABS WellInformed.org.uk



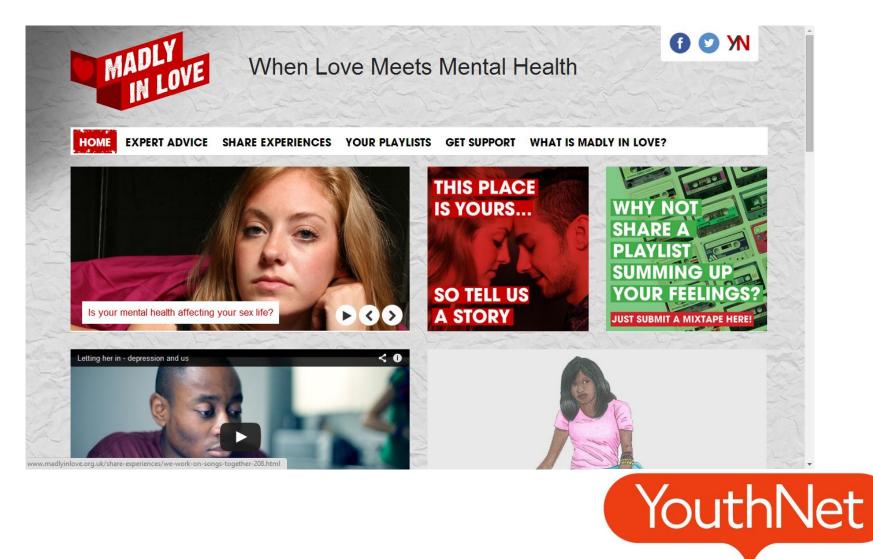
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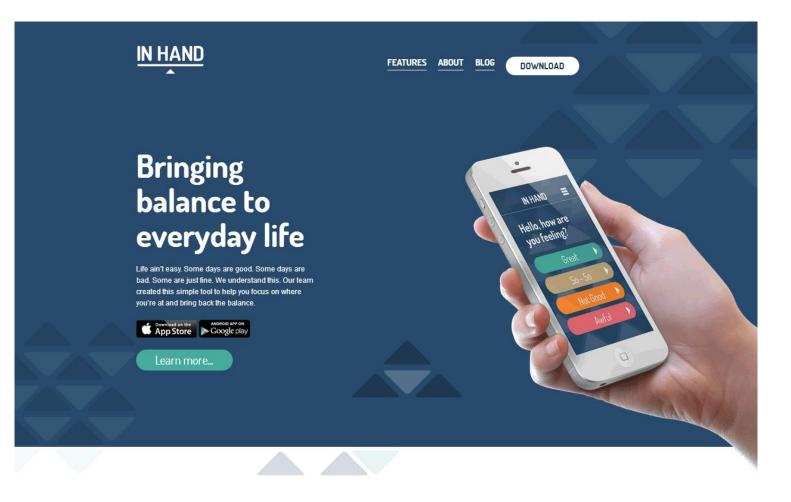


#### INNOVATIONLABS

## MadlyinLove.org.uk



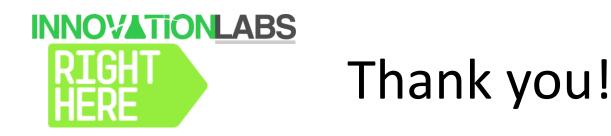
# InHand (Mobile App)



FACT Re

**Red Ninja Studios** 

Mersey Care NHS Trust



### www.innovationlabs.org.uk

## www.right-here.org.uk