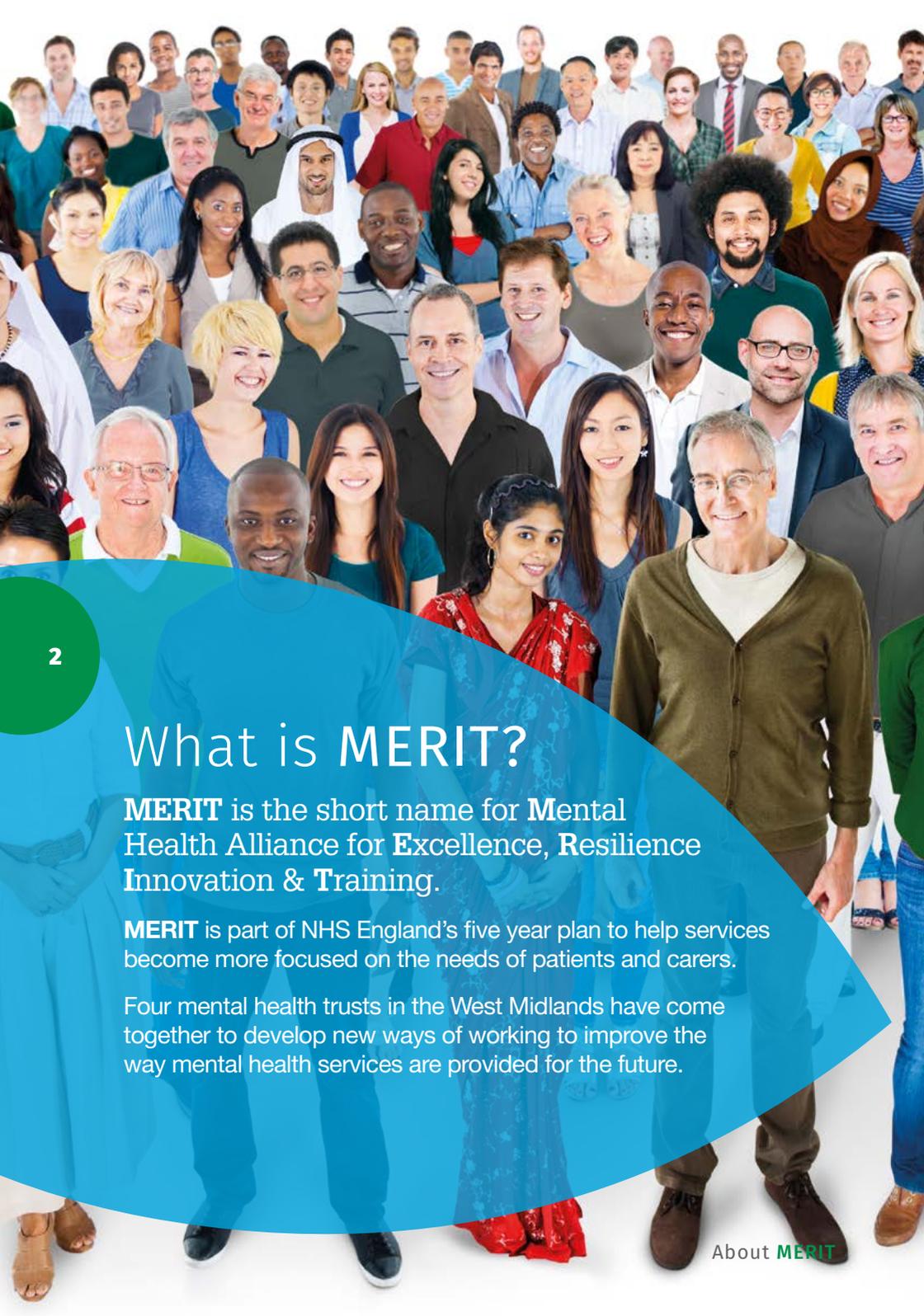




Information about MERIT

Working together
we are improving **local**
mental health services
for all communities in the
West Midlands.

This leaflet provides information
about the plans for mental health
services in your local area and how
you can be involved.



What is MERIT?

MERIT is the short name for **Mental Health Alliance for Excellence, Resilience Innovation & Training**.

MERIT is part of NHS England's five year plan to help services become more focused on the needs of patients and carers.

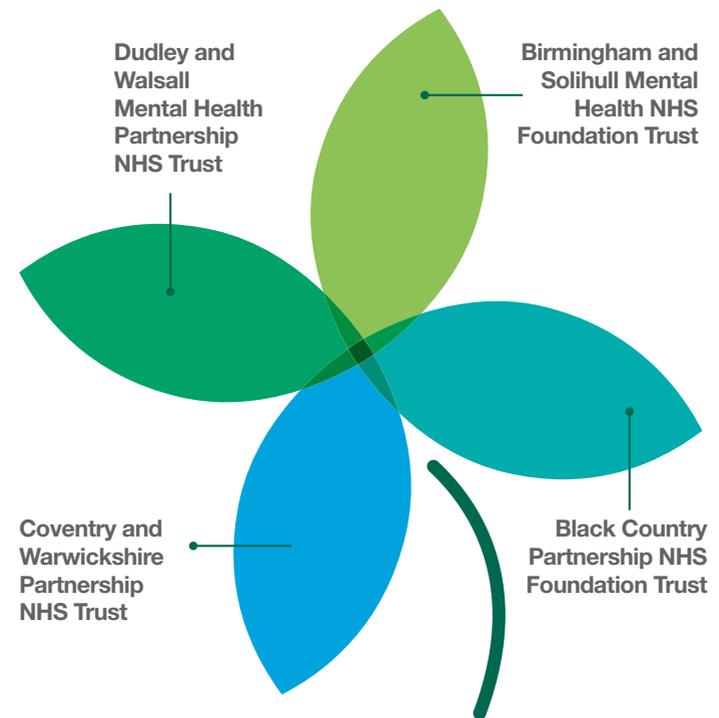
Four mental health trusts in the West Midlands have come together to develop new ways of working to improve the way mental health services are provided for the future.

Who is involved?

MERIT is the **only** group of mental health trusts working together in this way. This means that we will be leading the way in looking at how we can jointly develop mental health services.

We want to involve all those in the communities who are affected and experience mental health problems. This includes **patients, carers** and **more than 11,000 staff**. We believe that by getting people involved we can make sure our services meet the unique requirements of our mental health needs across the West Midlands.

The trust partners working together to make the improvements are:



In total, the population in the **West Midlands** is **3.4 million** and people come from many different backgrounds. When people need our help we want to make it easier for them to get the help they need.

Vision

SW

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What is our vision?

“By collaborating and innovating, we will deliver the best quality care and the highest levels of mental well-being across the West Midlands.”



Quite simply, we all want to make our mental health services the best they can be for everyone involved in our local communities.

About MERIT

What do we want to do?

We want to focus on proactive early intervention and care, rather than reactive crisis management.

There are three top areas we want to look at and by working together and sharing ideas we believe we can make big improvements quickly.

These are:



Promoting a recovery culture

By finding out about people's experiences and what works best, we can help prevent readmissions to hospital. We want to support people to regain their independence, giving them access to the best services available in the community.



Crisis care and the reduction of risk

We want to make our systems flexible so that crisis care is provided in a consistent and efficient way, making the whole experience better for patients. This includes making the most of the beds that are available in the West Midlands so that patients can stay closer to home.



Everyday working in acute services

Where possible we will use the same systems across our four organisations to make sure our work is consistent. By sharing the way we do things we can make it easier and simpler for our patients and staff.

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WMmeritvanguard.nhs.uk  @meritvanguardwm

Why involve **you?**



Your opinion and feedback is very important to us.

We want to be sure that where ever possible, as many people know what we are doing.

People using our service are at the heart of any changes and developments and we want them to have the opportunity to tell us what is important to them.

We have already listened to some of those who have needed our help to make certain that we learn from their experiences and have

involved them in developing new ways of doing things.

The participation of patients, carers, staff and stakeholders is vital. We want the changes to be the right ones that are good for everyone involved so that MERIT is successful for the long term.

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Where do I get more information?



You can visit our website: **WMmeritvanguard.nhs.uk** where you will be able to learn more about what we are doing and the progress we are making.



Or email us: **merit.vanguard@nhs.net**



Or write to us: **MERIT communications team, Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Delta House, Delta Point, Greets Green Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 9PL**

If you would like to receive this in a different format or language please contact: **communications.team@bcpft.nhs.uk**



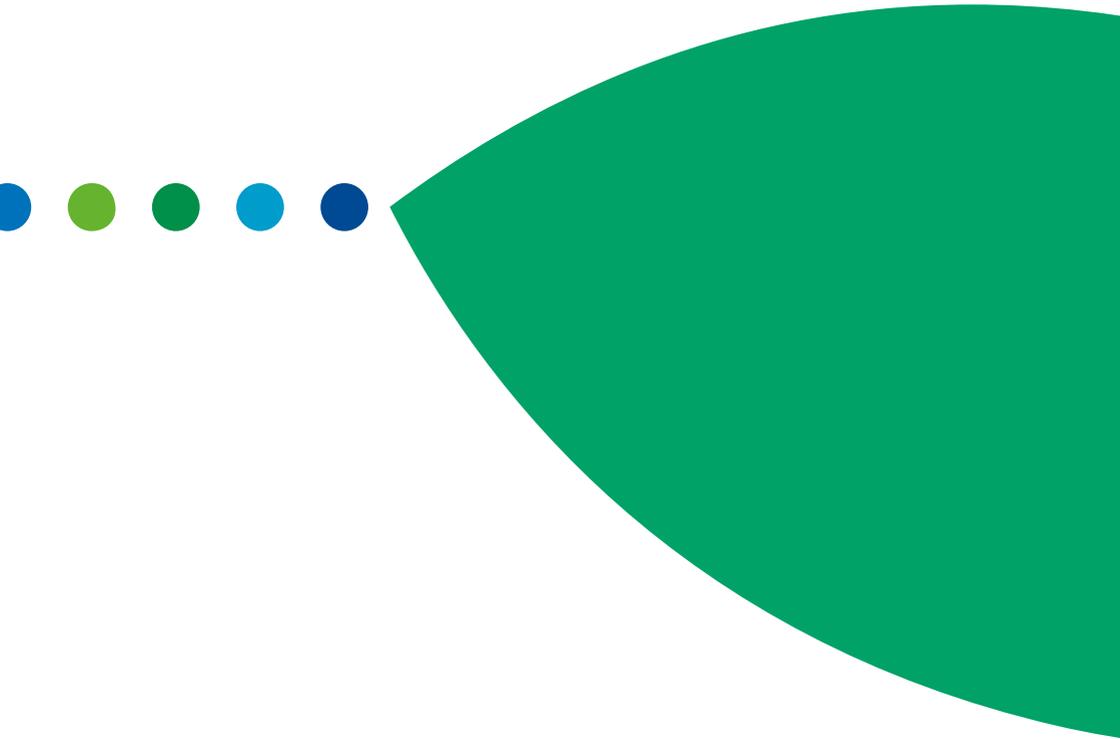
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Remember your feedback and involvement really matters to us.

MERIT is part of NHS England's new models of care 'vanguard' programme, which supports improvement and integration of services.

MERIT is the only 'vanguard' which is focused on improving care in mental health services.



Thank you for your interest in **MERIT**.

Mental Health Alliance for Excellence, Resilience, Innovation and Training