

**rethink**

**Social Exclusion Conference  
Supporting Families – the  
Mental Health Perspective  
Paul Jenkins – Chief Executive - Rethink**

**26<sup>th</sup> March**

Working together to help everyone  
affected by severe mental illness  
recover a better quality of life

## Mental Health and social exclusion

- Only 24% in employment compared to 75% of the general population and 65% of people with physical disabilities
- Life expectancy of someone with schizophrenia 10 years less than the average population
- 70% of prisoners have 2 or more mental health disorders
- Some BME communities 3 times more likely to be admitted to inpatient mental health care

## Early Intervention

- Positive development from National Service Framework
- Focus on reducing the period of undiagnosed illness
- Cost effective investment
- Needs of parents with mental health problems

## Information, Advice and Advocacy

- Information and advice one of the biggest needs of families:
  - Condition specific
  - Practical issues – benefits
  - Involvement in treatment
  - Complaints
  - Drug and alcohol issues
- Major need but difficult to secure funding

## Stigma

- Major issue for people with mental health problems
- Attitudes still negative – only 29% of people happy living next to someone with a schizophrenia
- Need for public campaign on attitudes – following New Zealand and Scotland
- Families also affected by stigma – 10% of carers have had suicidal thoughts