How can the research and expertise in collaborative integrated care, developed in the USA, be used in the new integrated primary and secondary mental health teams in England?

NHS Long Term Plan England 2019
- creating Primary Care Networks bringing together groups of primary medical practices
- aiming to ‘provide pro-active, personalised, coordinated and more integrated health and social care’
- integrating primary and community mental health teams
- using multi-disciplinary teams delivering health and social care
- introducing social prescriber ‘link worker’

Findings from Churchill Travelling Fellowship to USA
- collaborative integrated mental health care system
- co-location of mental health practitioners in primary care
- team working using a systemic framework
- peripatetic: teams working across different sites
- visibility: mental health practitioners ‘walkarounds’
- availability: ‘warm handoffs’
- flexibility: open to and seeking collaboration
- open to work together without hierarchy or competition
- family involvement: universal commitment
- care across the lifespan
- creative use of therapeutic techniques

Creation of co-located primary care mental health services enables behavioural health clinicians to practice collaboratively, visible and available, working without hierarchy or competition across the lifespan demonstrating a universal commitment to family involvement.