



## NHS and terrorism

Sir, Alice Thomson is right that a key issue is the backgrounds and vulnerabilities of some of the perpetrators of the recent terror attacks, whether or not they had been radicalised or motivated by other factors ("How the NHS can help tackle terrorism", Comment, July 27).

Migration may be the cause or catalyst of underlying mental health conditions, and it is urgent that culturally sensitive screenings and interventions are made available. Untreated mental illness can provide the ground in which extreme beliefs and feelings of alienation can take root and may lead to self-harm or harm to others. The tragedy is also that when this happens, the vast majority of people with mental illness, who are never violent, suffer yet more stigma.

We need to finance more research and training in this area to develop more robust interventions, improved therapies and consistent health and social care when a person or family seeks help. Surely, with so much at stake, there needs to be global co-ordination to meet the needs of young people at risk.

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