should help, not towards over-standardisation, but towards the development of a common language and set of procedures.

The next major and very powerful step is to agree on how individual audits could be built up into a larger whole that would inform the functioning of an entire clinical service, or how individual aspects of a service could be compared between different districts. This will have implications for the development of the quality of child mental health services, so that comparisons can be made at this level. This is something that will come in time.

I very much enjoyed this book. The presentation is attractive and the quality of publication is high. I will consult it very often when developing our own audit programme.

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