

Mental Health Act

Words explained (Part 2)

Approved mental health professionals (AMHP)

AMHP's can be social workers, psychologists and some specific other persons who have been trained and then approved by a local authority. AMHP's can ask for a person to be detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act.

Attorney

If you find it difficult to make some decisions for yourself, an attorney or deputy can help you. A lasting power of attorney (LPA) is someone who you have said can make certain decisions for you in the future when you do not have capacity to make that decision. You must follow the rules in the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to create a lasting power of attorney. The person you choose is called an attorney.

Care co-ordinator

A care co-ordinator is responsible for overseeing your care and support.

Care quality commission (CQC)

An independent organisation that checks health and social care services, including hospitals, that detain and treat people under the Mental Health Act.

Clinical commissioning group

The NHS organisation that plans and pays for local health services.

Community psychiatric nurse (CPN)

A CPN is a mental health nurse who works in the community. They can support you with taking medication, manage your health, and offer you treatment in the community. They can help you to talk through problems and give practical advice and support.

Deputy

A deputy is someone who the court of protection has agreed can make decisions on your behalf because you lack capacity to make that decision.

Experts by experience

People who have a lived experience of using or caring for someone who uses mental health and/or social care services.

Guardian

The Mental Health Act allows for individuals called 'guardians' to be appointed. These are people with special legal powers to make some decisions on behalf of a person with a mental disorder.

Hospital manager

The person or organisation who is responsible for the Mental Health Act in a hospital.

Independent mental health advocate (IMHA)

IMHA's are independent of mental health services. An IMHA can help people who are eligible for IMHA support to understand information, get their views and wishes heard and make sure they know their rights under the law.

A lasting power of attorney (LPA)

This is someone who you have said can make certain decisions for you in the future, if you do not have capacity to make that decision yourself.

Mental health tribunal

An independent organisation that has the power to discharge patients from detention, community treatment orders and guardianship.

Named nurse

A nurse on the ward who is responsible for your care from hospital admission to discharge. You will have 1-1 sessions with your nurse and discuss your care and treatment plan whilst on the ward.

Nearest relative

Your nearest relative is given information and involved in decisions about your treatment and care. The Mental Health Act says who your nearest relative is.

Responsible clinician

The doctor in charge of your care and treatment under the Mental Health Act.

Second Opinion Approved Doctor (SOAD)

The SOAD is a qualified doctor who works for the Care Quality Commission. They will decide if the recommended treatment is right for the patient. They also make sure that the patient's views and wishes have been heard.

SOAD service

This service safeguards the rights of patients detained under the Mental Health Act who either refuse the treatment prescribed to them or unable to consent to treatment.

Secondary mental health services

Secondary mental health services are part of the NHS. They work with patients who have serious and complex mental health needs. Patients might get support from specialists such as a mental health nurse or psychiatrist.

Social worker

Social workers work for the council. A social worker will talk with a person about how they are managing their day to day life and look at what help they may need to stay safe, independent and well. A social worker will talk about what is important to the person and what they want to achieve to have a better life.