

AGENDA ITEM

(3.8)

MENTAL HEALTH ACT MONITORING COMMITTEE
IMPACT OF COVID -19 ON PATIENTS SUBJECT TO THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT - UPDATE

Date of meeting	04/11/2020
FOI Status	Open/Public
If closed please indicate reason	Choose an item.
Prepared by	Phil Lewis, Head of Mental Health Nursing and the Mental Health Act Administration Team
Presented by	Phil Lewis, Head of Mental Health Nursing
Approving Executive Sponsor	Executive Director of Operations
Report purpose	FOR DISCUSSION / REVIEW

Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/group)

Committee/Group/Individuals	Date	Outcome
Mental Health Act Team	03/08/2020	SUPPORTED

ACRONYMS

MHA	Mental Health Act
AMHP	Approved Mental Health Practitioner
UHB	University Health Board

1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to up-date the committee on the impact on the use of the Mental Health Act during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

2. SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THIS MEETING (ASSESSMENT)

- 2.1 The team continues to use new processes reported on last meeting which have included the further implementation of electronic documentation.
- 2.2 The service continues to pursue the option of electronic signatures for detention papers to further streamline the process
- 2.3 There has still been no steer from Welsh Government to operationalise the use of one medical recommendation to support on-going use of the Act.
- 2.4 Following government advice on social distancing all Hospital Managers Hearings were postponed from 17.03.20 onwards.
- 2.5 Due to the uncertainty of the situation a further decision was taken to postpone all hearings up until the end of April 2020. This totaled 19 hearings.
- 2.6 As reported at the previous committee, following consultation with MHA departments in other Health Boards it was agreed that Teams would be the ideal medium to facilitate hearings and enable the UHB to meet the requirements of the MHA and Code of Practice.

A new procedure has been developed for undertaking hearings remotely and this has been sent to all the Hospital Managers and care teams.

At the last time of reporting there 15 outstanding Manager's Hearings. This has been addressed and there is now no outstanding hearings.

Compliments were received from the Chair of the Power of Discharge Committee for all the help in organising and facilitating the Hospital Managers Hearings via teams.

3. KEY RISKS/MATTERS FOR ESCALATION TO BOARD/COMMITTEE

- 3.1 There is a backlog of tribunals with the 15 postponed hearings now all scheduled to take place. The position as of the 03.08.2020 is that there are 9 outstanding cases but these are not appeals but uncontested renewals. All cases are booked in for August 2020.

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Quality/Safety/Patient Experience implications	There are no specific quality and safety implications related to the activity outlined in this report.
Related Health and Care standard(s)	Governance, Leadership and Accountability If more than one Healthcare Standard applies please list below:
Equality impact assessment completed	Not required
Legal implications / impact	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.
Resource (Capital/Revenue £/Workforce) implications / Impact	There is no direct impact on resources as a result of the activity outlined in this report.
Link to Main Strategic Objective	To provide strong governance and assurance
Link to Main WBFG Act Objective	Work collaboratively with our public service partners and a broader range of partners to join up health and other services where this potentially represents

	better value for our residents and care users
--	---

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The Mental Health Act Monitoring Committee is asked to:

- **Discuss** and **Note** the report.