

AGENDA ITEM

3.2.1

MENTAL HEALTH ACT MONITORING COMMITTEE
**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RECRUITMENT OF SECTION 12
APPROVED DOCTORS**

Date of meeting	(03/11/2021)
FOI Status	Open/Public
If closed please indicate reason	Not Applicable - Public Report
Prepared by	(Robert Goodwin, Clinical Service Group Manager Bridgend ILG)
Presented by	(Robert Goodwin, Clinical Service Group Manager Bridgend ILG)
Approving Executive Sponsor	Julie Denley Director of Primary Care, Community & Mental Health
Report purpose	FOR DISCUSSION / REVIEW

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

Committee/Group/Individuals	Date	Outcome
(Insert Name)	(DD/MM/YYYY)	Choose an item.

1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The Operational Group has been asked to review the availability of Section 12 Approved Doctors and to develop a recruitment plan to ensure the Health Board has sufficient numbers to meet its obligations under the Mental Health Act 1983. At its meeting held on 15 October 2021 the group discussed the way forward.

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

2.1 Understanding the role and function of Section 12 Approved Doctors

A Section 12 Approved Doctor is a medically qualified doctor who has been recognised under Section 12(2) of the Mental Health Act 1983 who has specified expertise in mental disorders and has received training in application of the Act. The Betsi Cadwalader UHB provides training to medical staff and discharges the statutory 'Approval Function' for Section 12 Doctors in Wales.

2.2 Provision of Section 12 Approved Doctors who are able to apply the Mental Health Act within CTMUHB

In addition to those Section 12 Approved Doctors who are employed within the CTMUHB the Mental Health Act team holds a list of independent Section 12 Approved Doctors (not employed by CTMUHB). The Local Authorities Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP's) use this list when arranging a Mental Health Act assessment should two CTMUHB doctors not be available.

The Operational Group has reviewed the current list of independent Section 12 Approved Doctors which comprises of 98 doctors. In 2020 a total of 401 assessments were undertaken by independent doctors with 283 being completed by just four practitioners on the list. In the first three months of 2021, 98 assessments were completed with 70 being undertaken by two of the practitioners on the list.

The group were advised by the AMHP's in attendance at the meeting that they rely on a very small number of independent medical staff and that there are occasions when it is not possible to secure the services of two Section 12 Approved Doctors. In these circumstances Section 4 is used as an emergency with just one medical recommendation.

2.3 Review of the current Independent Section 12 Approved Doctor List

It was agreed that the Operational Group would coordinate the distribution of a letter to the 98 doctors on the independent list to ask if they were still available to perform these duties. For those who were available they would be asked which times of the day they would be best able to respond to a request for an assessment.

2.4 Recruitment of new Independent Section 12 Approved Doctors

The Mental Health Act team had contacted the Betsi Cadwalader UHB to ask if they could be given a copy of the current list of medical practitioners within Wales who were Section 12 Approved. The Health Board have indicated they would be unable to provide this list because of a potential breach in confidentiality.

Following discussion with the Health Board's Medical Recruitment team it was agreed that the Operational Group should attempt to obtain the list of Section 12 Approved Doctors from neighbouring Health Boards. Once these have been received individual letters inviting medical practitioners on to the CTMUHB list could be sent.

2.5 Development of Strategic Workforce Plan

The Chair of the Operational Group has been in touch with Charlette Middlemiss the Director of Workforce Development within Health Education Improvement Wales (HEIW). She has confirmed they are undertaking some significant work on developing a strategic workforce plan for Mental Health. The Operational Group will maintain contact to ensure it receives updates on progress.

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

3.1 Access to Section 12 Approved Doctors for the purpose of completing Mental Health Act Assessments

The Health Board has an obligation to ensure that two Section 12 Approved Doctors are available to complete Mental Health Act assessments. On some occasions the Local Authority Approved Mental Health Professional, who coordinates the assessment has had difficulty in identifying two such practitioners. The Operational Group is reviewing the current list of available doctors and exploring opportunities to increase their number.



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)	Safe Care
	If more than one Healthcare Standard applies please list below:
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) completed - Please note EIAs are required for <u>all</u> new, changed or withdrawn policies and services.	No (Include further detail below)
	If yes, please provide a hyperlink to the location of the completed EIA or who it would be available from in the box below.
	If no, please provide reasons why an EIA was not considered to be required in the box below.
Legal implications / impact	The MHA Operational Group meets bi-monthly to review the application of the Act across CTMUHB
	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 Strategic Goals	Sustaining Our Future

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1** The committee is asked to **NOTE** the work of the MHA Operational Group in reviewing the independent Section 12 Approved Doctor list and developing a recruitment plan to increase the pool of available doctors.