

POLICY ON A PAGE

Section 117 Overarching Policy

1 PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of Section 117 as defined in the 2015 Code of Practice to the Mental Health Act is as follows:-

- Meeting a need arising from or related to the patient's mental disorder
- Reducing the risk of a deterioration of the patient's mental condition
- Reducing the risk of the patient requiring admission to hospital again for treatment for mental disorder.
- To maintain patients in the community, with as few restrictions as are necessary, wherever possible.

2 PRINCIPLES

Section 117 of the MHA requires clinical commissioning groups and local authorities, in co-operation with voluntary agencies, to provide or arrange for the provision of after-care to particular patients detained in hospital for treatment who then cease to be detained.

3 DUTIES

Discharge planning must involve both health and social care staff.

It is the responsibility of the Responsible Clinician to ensure that s.117 entitlement and provision is incorporated into the discharge care plan.

Both health and social care staff must be involved in the determination to end the s.117 provision for a patient.

4 PROCEDURE

Although the duty to provide after-care begins when the patient leaves hospital, the planning of after-care needs to start as soon as the patient is admitted to hospital.

CCGs and local authorities should take reasonable steps, in consultation with the care co-ordinator and other members of the multi-disciplinary team to identify appropriate after-care services for patients in good time for their eventual discharge from hospital.

After-care should be planned within the framework of the care programme approach.

In order to ensure that the after-care plan reflects the full range of needs of each patient, it is important to consider who needs to be involved, in addition to patients themselves. This may involve carers and a wide range of professionals.

5 CONTACT

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