

MENTAL HEALTH ACT ASSESSMENTS IN CUSTODY

ESCLALATION PROCESS FOR DETAINEES WHO RESIDE IN THE NORTH STAFFS COMBINED HEALTHCARE TRUST OR MIDLANDS PARTNERSHIP UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION TRUST AREAS ONLY.

Patient/detainee has undergone a statutory Mental Health Act Assessment in Police Custody and it is considered appropriate to suspend PACE

If the assessing team agree that the person requires detaining under a section of the Mental Health Act for assessment and/or treatment, the pathway for admission will commence and will then lead to the transfer from police custody which must be considered at the earliest opportunity.

The Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) will make the application and final arrangements for transport from custody once an admission bed has been identified.

It is the responsibility of the medic involved in the assessment to liaise with the bed manager / gate keeper to locate an admission bed and not the responsibility of the Police or the AMHP.

A person is NOT 'sectioned' until an admission bed has been identified, once an admission bed has been located and the application finalised they are then 'liable' to be detained. (Liable – patients are informal up to this point/arrival on the ward)

If the person appears to be suffering from a physical health condition whilst waiting for a bed the HCP should be requested via SUMS

Ensure all decisions and conversations are clearly recorded on the custody record.

If the delay in locating the patient a suitable mental health bed for admission exceeds 5 hours, or it becomes apparent there is likely to be a delay which will exceed 5 hours, then:

- Escalate the matter to the Custody Operational Inspector (when available) or the on-shift Response Inspector as soon as possible – who would then escalate to the site manager in the Trust.
- Discuss with the assessing team next steps/options available.
 - If the patient requires an Acute or PICU bed then establish if the health-based place safety is free to act as a temporary 'bed' until an admission bed becomes available. Escalate to managers – see above.
 - Contact Harlands Hospital and/or St Georges Hospital to ensure they are in position to accept the patient.
 - Transportation by ambulance.
- If the health-based place of safety is not available at the time of the request then regular contact is to continue between custody and the site manager regarding its availability and proceed to stage one of the Escalation Process.

The Health Based Place of Safety is not an option for those patients who have been identified as requiring a medium or secure bed.

If a formal admission bed has been identified before the health-based place of safety becomes available then the person MUST be transported from custody direct to the identified hospital admission bed

Arrangements for transportation will be made by the AMHP.

The overriding questions in all of this are:

- What is the best for the person/detainee who has been identified as mentally unwell?
- Where will they receive the best possible care?

This will **NOT** be from Police Custody.

Maintain communication with mental health partners and ensure that any contact, decision making and rationale is accurately recorded on the custody detention log.

Useful Contact Numbers:

Staffordshire health-based places of safety:

- North – Harlands Hospital Crisis Care Centre, Hazelhurst Unit SOT. Tel 01782 441600
- South – ST Georges Hospital, Stafford. Tel 01785 257888

EDS / EDT:

- Staffordshire – [REDACTED]
- SOT 01782 234234