

FACTSHEET FOR STAFF ON THE INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICE

The Independent Mental Health Act Advocate (IMHA) is a specific Mental Health Advocate provided to qualifying patients under the revised Mental Health Act 2007. A patient should be informed by staff that they have a right to see an IMHA as soon possible after they are detained within the Mental Health Act. The service is voluntary so patients always have the right to refuse to see an IMHA.

WHO QUALIFIES

- Any patient detained under the Mental Health Act (except for sections 4, 5(2), 5(4), 135, 136)
- Those who are on a Community Treatment Order, conditional discharge and those subject to guardianship
- Any patient discussing the possibility of serious treatment such as neurosurgery or ECT for patients under 18 years

N. B We will also continue to provide generic mental health advocacy for patients who are voluntary and who do not qualify under the Act for an IMHA.

THE ROLE AND WORK OF AN IMHA

- To help the patient understand information about the section of the Mental Health Act they are subject to and any conditions and restrictions that apply
- Provide information on a patients rights and how they can exercise them
- To help the patient understand medical treatments they are on or are being proposed
- To support and represent the **patients views** at meetings e.g. ward rounds, tribunals, managers hearings
- To enable patients to be more involved in the decisions about their treatment and care

RIGHTS OF THE IMHA UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT

- To visit and interview the patient in private
- To meet with and get the opinions of anyone professionally involved with the patient's treatment
- The right to access relevant medical records, with the signed permission of the patient

CONFIDENTIALITY

We are an independent service and keep all information the patient tells us confidential (except where the patient or someone else is at serious risk). Please be aware it is our policy that any information you share with us will be shared with the patient involved. We keep records of our work with patients.

TO CONTACT THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES OR MAKE A REFERRAL

- Ring us on the contact details given on our website and leave us the patient's name and ward / hospital they are based.
- e-mail us on: brightonimha@mindcharity.co.uk for people living in Brighton and Hove
- email us on wsusseximha@mindcharity.co.uk for people living in West Sussex

This service is provided by Mind in Brighton and Hove – Charity 1071434