

MHB007 - Iechyd a Gofal Digidol Cymru

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Bil arfaethedig – Datblygu'r Bil Safonau Gofal Iechyd Meddwl (Cymru) |
Proposed Development of the Mental Health Standards of Care (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan: Sam Hall, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Digidol Sylfaenol, Gofal Cymunedol ac Iechyd Meddwl yn Iechyd a Gofal Digidol Cymru | Evidence from: Sam Hall, Director Primary, Community & Mental Health Digital Services at Digital Health and Care Wales

Enshrining overarching principles in legislation

Question 1: Do you think there is a need for this legislation?

Can you provide reasons for your answer.

Good to see Wales leading the way on much needed reform of mental health services. This change in legislation will help promote a user centred approach when delivering mental health services, resulting in strengthening the patient's voice, to enable individual needs to be met. Equally important is the need for mental health to have the same status as physical health and equity of service delivery across Wales, for all population groups.

Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with the overarching principles that the Bill seeks to enshrine?

Agree. This will help reduce the stigma of mental health, provide more dignity to those accessing the services, allowing patient's more choice and autonomy. Of significant importance is the principle that the Act is applied in the least restrictive and invasive manner.

Therapeutic Benefit designed to meet the person needs in a supportive and healing environment is a welcomed principle, as is the right to request a reassessment to be extended to children and young people.

The change from nearest relative to nominated person, treating a person as an individual, strengthens the patient voice, which is hugely important when accessing mental health services.

Specific changes to existing legislation

A. Nearest Relative and Nominated Person

Question 3: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to replace the Nearest Relative (NR) provisions in the Mental Health Act 1983 with a new role of Nominated Person?

Agree.

Can you provide reasons for your answer.

It should not be automatically assumed that the Nearest Relative is acting in the best interest of the patient. Changing legislation to a Nominated Person reinforces the user centred approach.

B. Changing the criteria for detention, ensuring the prospect for therapeutic benefit.

Question 4: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to change in the criteria for detention to ensure that people can only be detained if they pose a risk of serious harm either to themselves or to others?

Agree

Can you provide reasons for your answer.

This change provides greater dignity for patients, with a clear criterion of when detention is necessary.

Question 5: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to change in the criteria that there must be reasonable prospect of therapeutic benefit to the patient?

Agree.

Can you provide reasons for your answer.

If through detention, the patient will gain therapeutic benefit their mental health should improve sooner, without it, there maybe no discernible benefit to the individual.

C. Remote (Virtual) assessment

Question 6: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to introduce remote (virtual) assessment under ‘specific provisions’ relating to Second Opinion Appointed Doctors (SOADs), and Independent Mental Health Advocates (IMHA)?

Agree.

Can you provide reasons for your answer.

This promotes delivering care in a less restrictive setting. Ensures care is clinically safe, with due privacy, confidentiality respected and protected.

In addition, this presents an opportunity for digital tools to be embedded to enable these remote assessments and provide further benefits such as recording and share of key data.

D. Amendments to the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010

Question 7: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to amend the Measure to ensure that there is no age limit upon those who can request a re-assessment of their mental health?

Agree

Can you provide reasons for your answer.

Important for children and young people to have the same rights as adults, which includes right to request reassessment of their mental health. This promotes equity of mental health services across Wales.

Question 8: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to amend the Measure to extend the ability to request a re-assessment to people specified by the patient?

Agree

Can you provide reasons for your answer.

It encourages patients to actively take part in their mental health care planning, decision making, and provision as equal partners through coproduction of care and treatment plans.

General Views

Question 9: Do you have any views about how the impact the proposals would have across different population groups?

Really good to see, this suggested reform of the Mental Health Act and Measure. Promoting equity of services across population group, particularly for Child and Adolescent Mental Services.

These proposals provide patients with greater choice in their care and helps ensure they are given the dignity and respect they deserve. So important for mental health services to have the same parity as physical health in Wales.

Question 10: Do you have any views about the impact the proposals would have on children's rights?

Strengthens the voice and rights of children. Helps reduce the stigma of mental health and encourages children to be involved in their care and treatment plans.


Hopefully treating mental health in children and young people more effectively, will help prevent mental health crisis later in their life.

Question 11: Do you have any general views on the proposal, not covered by any of the previous questions contained in the consultation?

There are several opportunities where digital tools and data can help enable these reforms. Digital Health and Care Wales recently undertook a discovery with Cwm Taf region as a case study. The purpose of this discovery was to understand what problems were being faced in the region when delivering mental health services to their residents.

Embedded into this document is a presentation which provides the context and purpose of the workshops. The slide below identifies the digital and data opportunities identified in the Cwm Taf discovery.

Digital and Data Opportunities



- National dataset for Mental Health across HBs and LAs.
 - Consistent profile of needs and how they present.
- Mental Health care pathway redesign.
 - Digital interoperability, enabling equitable care.
- Digital literacy and training.
 - Design, plan to ensure staff are digitally literate.
- Digital inclusion solutions.
 - User- centred design, digital inclusion strategy.
- The co-production of better business cases.
 - Focus more on the transformation and citizen.
- Increased flexibility and innovation on digital spend.
 - Reflect the move to cloud hosting rather than purchasing.
- Digitally supported access to Mental Health services.
 - Digital tools and apps to support triage and assessment.
- Digitally supported rationalised front doors.
 - Appointment booking, digital prioritisation of referrals.
- Digitally supported self-care- management.
 - Through prescribed apps such as Headspace.
- Digitally supported care alerting and hand overs.
 - Sharing of data between systems which is audited.
- Integrated citizen/personal care record.
 - Provide writeback into a shared care record.

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A number of these opportunities underpin the enshrining overarching principles of the proposed legislation:

Mental health care pathway design to enable equitable care.

Digital tools and applications to support triage and assessment.

Workshops have been scheduled with all Welsh regions and national organisations involved in delivering mental health services, to validate the findings of the Cwm Taf discovery.

These workshops will be completed by the end of March 2024, resulting in a report which will identify, prioritise, and cost the digital and data opportunities. This report will be presented to DHCW Executive Board, Welsh Government Policy leads, National Directors of Digital and National Directors of Mental Health Services.

Implementation of these opportunities will help enable improved delivery of mental health services, recognising Welsh citizens as individuals with their own set of needs, which in turn will improve their outcomes.

