

# Assessment of the service provision commissioned in relation to Section 136

The following is to enable a review of the key components of the commissioned service for Section 136 in relation to the Mental Health Act Codes of Practice and national guidance.

## Place of safety

1. How many mental health places of safety (MHPoS) do you provide?

Please name: .....  
.....  
.....  
.....

2. Do you have alternative provision for specific groups (e.g. young people, older people, those with intellectual disability)?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: .....  
.....  
.....

If not, can they be taken to the MHPoS?

Yes  No

3. What is the capacity of each place of safety?

.....  
.....  
.....

4. Is the MHPoS available 24h a day, 365 days a year?

Yes  No

If not, please note opening hours: .....  
.....

5. How many were taken to this facility in a specified year?

.....

6. How many were taken to the custody suite in this same period?

.....

7. If the MHPoS is unable to take the individual, is there another hospital place of safety which can be used?

Yes  No

8. Are there any exclusion criteria for admission to the MHPoS other than acute medical needs or disturbed behaviour? (Specifically, check whether those intoxicated, with intellectual disability or under the age of 18 years are excluded. Also, those arrested in the area but resident elsewhere.)

If so, please describe: .....

.....

.....

.....

9. Does the MHPoS have dedicated staff?

Yes  No

If no, which team do staff come from: crisis resolution home treatment, wards, other?

.....

10. How many staff are allocated to work on the MHPoS?

.....

11. Are staff available when the police arrive?

Yes  No

If not, how long do the police have to wait for the suite to open (range and median)?

.....

12. Are the police expected to remain to support the staff during the assessment process?

Yes  Only if the person remains disturbed  Never

13. Are the police expected to assist in physical restraint?

Yes, at times  Only if the person is very disturbed  Never

## Conveyance

14. What percentage of those on Section 136 are taken to the place of safety by a vehicle supplied by the ambulance provider?

.....

15. Does your contract with the local ambulance provider stipulate a response time for those on Section 136?

Yes  No

If yes, what is this: .....

16. Are the individuals conveyed between places of safety by the ambulance provider where safe to do so?

Yes  No

17. Are the individuals conveyed to hospital, where necessary, by the ambulance provider?

Yes  No

**Mental Health Act assessment**

18. Are there sufficient AMHPs to enable an assessment to commence within 3h:

*In hours?* Yes  No

*Out of hours?* Yes  No

19. In what percentage of cases does this happen?

.....

20. Is the first doctor to complete the mental health assessment always approved under Section 12(2) of the Mental Health Act:

*In custody suite?* Yes  No

*In MHPoS?* Yes  No

21. Are there sufficient Section 12(2)-approved doctors to enable an assessment to commence within 3h:

*In hours?* Yes  No

*Out of hours at all times to ensure that the assessment begins within 3h?* Yes  No

22. In what percentage of cases is the first doctor Section 12(2)-approved?

.....

23. Are those thought to have an intellectual disability:

*Assessed by a specialist AMHP for intellectual disability?* Yes  No

*Assessed by a Section 12(2)-approved doctor with specialist expertise in intellectual disability?* Yes  No

24. Are those under the age of 18 years:

*Assessed by a specialist AMHP  
for under-18-year-olds?*

Yes

No

*Assessed by a Section 12(2)-  
approved doctor for under-18-  
year-olds?*

Yes

No

25. What is the average time a person is detained on Section 136?

.....

26. In how many cases in the past year was someone held for over 24 h:

*In custody suite?* .....

*In MHPoS?* .....

27. Are there delays in transferring to a psychiatric bed once detained due to bed shortages?

Never

<10% of time

<50% of time

<90% of time

Always

### **Inter-agency working and monitoring**

28. Is there an agreed inter-agency protocol or policy relating to Section 136?

Yes

No

29. Is there a regular inter-agency meeting to monitor the effective working of the Section 136 care pathway?

Yes

No

30. Is there a monitoring form in use across all places of safety?

Yes

No

If yes, who collates this data? .....

.....

If not, how does the group monitor the care given against national standards?

.....

.....

31. Is there an agreed escalation process for dealing with disputes?

Yes

No

32. Do you know whether the number detained on Section 136 has changed in the past 6 years?

Yes

No

If yes, what is the percentage change? .....

33. Does the group consider how to reduce the need to use Section 136?

Yes  No

34. Is multi-agency training available for the police?

Yes  No

It would be helpful to have the name and contact details (email address) of the Chair of the local Section 136 monitoring group. This information would be shared with the multi-agency Mental Health Act group of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, whose membership includes all the professional and related monitoring organisations involved in the Section 136 care pathway.

Name: .....

Email address: .....

This survey is to be completed with reference to Royal College of Psychiatrists' Position Statement PS02/2013 – Guidance for commissioners: service provision for Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 (available at <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/usefulresources/publications/collegereports/positionstatements.aspx>).

Please send the completed survey to: Michele Hampson, c/o Central Secretariat, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG