

Vale of Glamorgan Council: AMHP Services and the Impact of Covid-19

<p>Do you have adequate AMHP cover?</p>	<p>There are pre-existing low numbers of AMHP per population of the Vale of Glamorgan. To date we have been able to meet our statutory responsibilities in relation to MHA assessments. The VOG currently has an agency AMHP who works three days per week.</p>
<p>Are you needing to use any alternative arrangements with neighbouring authorities to ensure adequate AMHP cover?</p>	<p>No to date as above we have been able to meet our statutory responsibilities in relation to the MHA. As a local Authority we share an LHB area with Cardiff Council. I am aware some discussion has been had at Operational level but no formal arrangements have been made to date.</p>
<p>Do your AMHPs have access to enough PPE?</p>	<p>Yes. PPE is supplied by relevant health/ward colleagues when assessments have been at the Crisis assessment suites or on the wards. In the community PPE has been provided by Health Board with whom we work in an integrated team. AMHPS have not had to undertake assessments without PPE.</p>
<p>Do you have adequate s.12 doctor availability?</p>	<p>Yes generally we have been able to access s.12 Doctors as normal. Generally there have been a group of s.12 Doctors who undertake the majority of MHA assessments within daytime services. As before the impact of Covid-19 if these s.12 Doctors are already undertaking MHA assessments then availability can be limited. There does not appear to have been high levels of sickness/absence in relation to the s.12 Doctors. Many of these s.12 Doctors also undertake DOLS work which is now being completed virtually where possible.</p>
<p>Are you experiencing delays with MHA assessments in community settings (s.135 or s.136 assessments, inpatient MHA assessments including use of holding powers)?</p>	<p>No more than usual. In relation to obtaining a s.135 (1) warrant this process is in fact quicker as it is completed via the telephone rather than having to attend court in Cardiff.</p> <p>Local agreements with the health board allow for a 'spot purchase' of secure transport in the cases of a s.135 (1) warrant. Police have generally been able to attend in a timely manner to facilitate execution.</p>

	<p>We have had some delays in the passing over of information following weekend shifts where people are on 5(2) and awaiting assessment. Again I have not seen a significant change to pre-covid-19 measures.</p>
<p>Are you experiencing issues in relation to conveyance, or any other factors that are impacting on the operation of the MHA?</p>	<p>Conveyance has been and remains a factor that impacts on the operation of the MHA. Extremely long waits for ambulance. Again there has not been a discernible change since the impact of Covid-19 measures.</p>
<p>Is there anything else you want to comment on regarding pressures on the operation of MHA-related work due to Covid-19?</p>	<p>As above the VOG continues to meet its statutory obligations under the MHA during this period. Assessment numbers have increasing over the past few weeks as lockdown measures remain in place. The ongoing ability to meet that need will of course dictated by the demand.</p>