

Information on Mental Health Act section 117 Aftercare services

Some people who have been kept in hospital under the Mental Health Act can get free help and support after they leave hospital. The law that gives this right is section 117 of the Mental Health Act, and it is often referred to as 'section 117 aftercare'.

'Aftercare' is the help you will get in the community after you leave hospital. This can cover all kinds of things like healthcare, social care and supported accommodation.

Section 117 of the Mental Health Act says that aftercare services are services which are intended to:

- **meet a need that arises from or relates to your mental health problem, and**
 - **reduce the risk of your mental condition getting worse, and you having to go back to hospital.**
- You are entitled to section 117 aftercare if you have been in hospital under section 3, 37, 45A, 47 or 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983.
 - 'After-care' is the help and support you need to minimise the risk of you returning to hospital or relapsing as a result of your mental health.
 - You should receive an assessment of your Health and Social Care 'Aftercare' needs prior to your discharge from hospital.
 - Health and Social Care teams have a statutory duty to assess your needs jointly; this means they may discuss your case to ensure that you get the right services at the right time.
 - Section 117 means that you will not be charged for your 'Aftercare' services which have been identified when you are discharged from hospital.
 - You may receive 'Aftercare' from NHS and/or Social Services.
 - Your Aftercare should only stop when the services you receive from the NHS and/or Social Services are no longer needed to meet your assessed 'Aftercare' needs.
 - You may still be entitled to receive NHS and Social Care services outside of your 'Aftercare' needs e.g. access to GP, other Community services, Community Mental Health Teams.
 - Services for Social Care outside of 'Aftercare' needs are subject to the Council's Paying for Care Policy that your Social Worker will be able to tell you about.

If you have any problems or questions, talk to your Care Coordinator/Social Worker or your other contacts in the NHS or Social Services. An advocate might be able to help you do this.

Mental Health advocacy services in Hampshire are run by:

Hampshire Advocacy Services

<http://hampshireadvocacy.org.uk/mental-health>

info@hampshireadvocacy.org.uk



Further information and advice

• **Mind - the mental health charity**

Provides information on a range of topics including:

- types of mental health problems
- where to get help
- medication and alternative treatments
- advocacy.



Mind infoline:

Open 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday (except for bank holidays).

0300 123 3393

Email: info@mind.org.uk

Text: 86463

• **Connect to Support Hampshire**

Online information and directories of local and national services for Hampshire residents with care and support needs.

www.ConnectToSupportHampshire.org.uk

**Connect to
Support
Hampshire**

Hampshire County Council Adults' Health and Care

Telephone: 0300 555 1386

Website: www.hants.gov.uk/adultsocialcare