

# Aftercare for Mental Health Service Users - Section 117

CCH15 Jan 2014

## What is Section 117 Aftercare?

The purpose of Section 117 Aftercare is to support a person safely back into the community, to prevent them from having to be readmitted to hospital because of their mental health needs. Section 117 does not require any specific services to be provided, but does place a duty on Health and Social Care services to work together to ensure that support is delivered to meet the person's needs. It's free of charge to the person concerned. A Section 117 Needs assessment should take place in the hospital, prior to discharge. The responsibility to provide Aftercare services lies with the Local Social Services Authority where the person was resident prior to being detained in hospital. The responsible Health Authority is determined by the area in which they are registered with a general practitioner (GP).

## Who is entitled to provision under Section 117 Aftercare?

Section 117 applies to anyone that has been detained in hospital under a treatment order (Sections 3 and 37 of the Mental Health Act). It also applies to people who have been transferred from prison to hospital for treatment (under sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act).

## How are arrangements made?

Before the person is discharged from hospital, a care planning meeting must take place involving the person, their family (where appropriate) and any relevant professionals involved in their care. The meeting is to identify and implement a care package to meet the person's needs once discharged and to identify a care co-ordinator. This is called a Care Programme Approach (CPA) meeting.

## What support may be included as Aftercare?

- Social Work support to the person and their carer
- Community Psychiatric Nurse support
- Accommodation, which may include residential or nursing care

- Support with obtaining employment
- Domiciliary Care – which may include support with day to day living
- Prescribing and administration of medication under medical supervision whilst the person is living in the community.

### **Reviewing S117 Aftercare**

The aftercare plan will be regularly reviewed in order to make sure the support available is still appropriate to the person's needs. The Local Social Services and Health Authority are responsible for making this decision. As part of the review process, it will be considered whether the person is still entitled to aftercare support under Section 117 of the Mental Health Act. The Local Social Services and Health Authority may discharge a person from Section 117 Aftercare if they are satisfied that the person is no longer in need of Aftercare support. Financially this would mean the person would be assessed to determine whether they need to make a contribution to the cost of their care services.

### **For more Information**

Please direct any enquiries to your Social Worker / Care Coordinator in the first instance. You can also contact Customer Services on 01454 868007 and ask to speak to the duty AMHP.

### **The Mental Health Advocacy Project**

The Mental Health Advocacy Project provides free mental health support for people aged 18-65 years who use mental health services in South Gloucestershire. The Project supports people to look at different options and possible outcomes.

### **For more information:**

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**Write to:** Mental Health Advocacy, The Care Forum, The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 2QQ.