

Draft Minutes Mental Health Legislation Committee (MHLC)

Date of Meeting: **10:30, Tuesday 03 March 2026**

Venue: **Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Present: Chantal Patel (Chair of the Committee and Independent Board Member)
Iwan Thomas (Vice Chair of the Committee and Independent Board Member)
Ann Murphy (Independent Board Member)
Eleanor Marks (Hywel Dda University Health Board Vice Chair)

In Attendance: Amanda Davies (Head of Service, Adult Mental Health)
Angie Darlington (Director, West Wales Action for Mental Health (WWAMH))
Kate Burton (Carmarthenshire County Council)
Jane Hitchings (Pembrokeshire County Council)
Lisa Bassett - Gravelle (Head of Adult Mental Health Inpatient Wards and Learning Disabilities Service)
Rebecca Temple-Purcell (Assistant Director of Nursing, Patient Safety, Quality and Experience)
Sarah Roberts (Mental Health Legislation Manager)
Warren Lloyd (Consultant Psychiatrist)
Gareth Cottrell (Deputy Chief Operating Officer)
Lydia Hayward (Service Manager Older Adult Community Mental Health)
Katie Lewis (Committee Services Officer)

Minutes Ref.	Item	Action
	Governance	
MHLC (26) 01	Welcome and Apologies Apologies were received from: Alastair Wakely, (Head of Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (SCAMHS)) Andrew Carruthers, (Chief Operating Officer (Gareth Cottrell is deputising)) Chris Neve, (Dyfed Powys Police) Liz Carroll, (Director of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities) Neil Mason, (Head of Older Adult Mental Health (Lydia Hayward is deputising))	
MHLC (26) 02	Declaration of Interests No declarations of interest were made by the Committee Minutes of the meeting held 1 December 2025 Mrs Chantal Patel inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes from the meeting held on 1 December 2025. Ms Ann Murphy confirmed that the minutes were accurate, and the	

members agreed, approving the minutes as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

Decision: The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 December were approved as an accurate record.

MHLC (26) 03

Table of Actions from the meeting held on 1 December 2025

Mrs Patel reviewed the table of actions from the previous meeting, noting that both actions were completed.

MHLC (26) 04

Good Practice/ Patient Story

Providing apologies that there was no patient story to share during this meeting, Mrs Rebecca Temple Purcell suggested revisiting the approach to patient stories, emphasising their importance. Mrs Temple-Purcell proposed two options: reviewing a patient's journey using a structured framework as a multi-disciplinary group and sharing insights with the Committee or gathering specific feedback on experiences related to Mental Health Legislation for future meetings.

Members discussed the sensitive nature of mental health stories and the importance of confidentiality. Ms Murphy, Ms Eleanor Marks, Mr Iwan Thomas, Ms Angie Darlington, Ms Kate Burton provided their perspectives, agreeing on the need for anonymised stories and structured feedback. Ms Darlington commented that there is a strong willingness among individuals to share their experiences and highlighted the importance of demonstrating improvements in practice and ensuring learning is captured from events. Mrs Temple- Purcell proposed taking the discussion forward through the Mental Health Legislation Scrutiny Group for a detailed practical approach and an update to be provided at the next meeting on 4 June 2026.

RTP

The Committee supported this proposal on developing a detailed plan on how to incorporate patient experience and feedback into the MHLC forward work plan.

Decision: The Committee NOTED the verbal update relating to including patient stories in future MHLC meetings.

MHLC (26) 05

Mental Health Act Report

Ms Sarah Roberts presented the Mental Health Act update report and highlighted that Performance Report for Quarter 3 had been omitted from the papers and would be circulated following the meeting. She highlighted minor changes to regulations affecting Part 3 of the Act (Patients Under Deprivation of Liberty Conditions) which did not impact upon current patients. Ms Roberts also discussed a Bill in the Senedd regarding doctors on tribunal panels without a current licence to practice, expecting it to be passed soon. Ms Roberts reported that a desktop review of Section 117 arrangements across Wales, with the outcome report

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expected in due course and Ms Roberts confirmed that sessions would be held to ensure awareness of any changes among Mental Health managers.

Decision: The Committee NOTED the content of the Mental Health Act Report.

MHLC (26) 06

Operational Risk Register

Mrs Temple-Purcell presented the Operational Risk Register, providing updates on the two risks aligned to MHLC. Risk 1857, related to delayed admissions under the Mental Health Act due to patient flow and capacity challenges, had been closed following management actions that resolved the situation. However, this risk may re-emerge depending on patient flow fluctuations.

Risk 1781, concerns the inability to provide a community-based place of safety for individuals detained under Section 136 in Ceredigion County, following the temporary closure of the Gorwelion community place of safety. This risk is expected to be resolved by the end of the calendar year with the new approach to section 136 provision however progress on relocating the facility to Cwm Seren, St David's Park in Carmarthen has been hindered by planning issues associated with a neighbouring housing development. Members emphasised the urgency of resolving this matter, and the Executive Team is taking steps to address this as a priority. Mr Gareth Cottrell agreed to liaise with Mrs Temple-Purcell outside the meeting to progress this at pace.

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The Committee agreed to advise the Board to monitor the developments and ensure the issue remains a priority amidst other pressing matters.

Decision: The Committee RECEIVED ASSURANCE that identified controls are in place and working effectively, received assurance that all planned actions are credible and deliverable, and in line with agreed plans, and will be implemented within stated timescales and will reduce risks further and/or mitigate the impact should risks materialise; This in turn will enable the Mental Health Legislation Committee to provide the necessary assurances that the Health Board is managing these risks effectively.

MHLC (26) 07

Mental Health Legislation Scrutiny Group Update

Ms Roberts provided an update from the Mental Health Scrutiny Group meeting held on 12 February 2026. Key points included the review of Section 136 community treatment orders (CTOs), Section 15 rectifiable errors, Section 4 admissions, and the use of Accident and Emergency Department for patients with mental health needs. The Independent Mental Health Advocacy Services (IMHA) lead and local authorities provided reports.

There was an unusual increase in CTOs for the quarter which was considered an anomaly. Five CTO's were discharged and three lasted less than 6 months. In these cases, the Responsible

Clinician had the option to maintain Section 117 aftercare arrangements for a longer period. All patients were offered advocacy services.

Decision: The Committee RECEIVED the Mental Health Scrutiny Group update

MHLC (26) 08

Hospital Power of Discharge Sub Committee Update Report

Mrs Roberts presented the Hospital Power of Discharge Sub Committee update report which was Chaired by Mr Iwan Thomas. Discussion took place regarding Section 23 reviews and feedback during the meeting on the value of clerking hospital managers' hearings. The recent recruitment drive for panel members has been successful, with new members starting as observers. Training sessions were planned throughout the year based on managers' needs.

Mr Iwan Thomas echoed the positive outcomes of the recruitment process, highlighting the inclusion of Welsh speakers to support patients preferring to converse in Welsh.

Decision: The Committee NOTED the Hospital Power of Discharge Sub Committee update report.

MHLC (26) 09

The Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 Performance Report

Ms Amanda Davies provided a report on the Mental Health Act compliance for the quarter. She highlighted feedback from advocates and service users concerning tribunals only taking place through Microsoft Teams unless exceptional circumstances, which has been escalated through the All-Wales Peer Group.

Ms Davies assured the Committee that all teams were compliant for the quarter and included information on the 72-hour follow-up offered to patients, noting that some patients decline this follow-up or are transferred into general beds.

Ms Marks commended the report, noting improved compliance rates and questioned whether services were more stretched or whether there was a fall in demand. Ms Davies clarified that demand had not decreased, however processes had been strengthened, with staffing challenges impacting compliance in certain areas. Ms Temple-Purcell added that positive recruitment in Ceredigion had reduced vacancies, despite ongoing challenges in medical positions. Ms Marks expressed thanked to Ms Davies and the teams for maintaining progress despite gaps. Ms Davies agreed to relay the appreciation to all teams involved, including inpatient teams, older adults, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Decision: The Committee NOTED the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 Performance Report report.

MHLC (26) 10

Policy 395: Section 136 Procedure

Ms Roberts requested a six-month extension to the review of the Section 136 procedure, explaining that while the procedure remains fit for purpose additional time is required due to ongoing work with the Section 136 review and the implementation of Right Care, Right Person partnership framework. Ms Roberts noted that the named places of safety within the document are outdated, as the current places of safety have changed.

Ms Temple-Purcell supported the extension, stating it would be more efficient to review the procedure once the Section 136 work is concluded. Ms Darlington raised a concern about the Policy listing places of safety that are no longer in use, suggesting a note or amendment to reflect current practices which the Committee agreed. **SR**

The Committee agreed to extend the review for another six months, recognising the need for an updated policy once the Section 136 work is finalised.

Decision: The Committee APPROVED a six-month extension of the 395 S136 Joint Procedure.

MHLC (26) 11 **Annual Work Plan 2026/27**

MHLC (26) 12 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for the 4 June 2026 at 10:30am.