

An introduction to the Commission

History

- Born in 1960, replacing general Board of Control
- Duties extended by the 1984 MHA and the Adults with Incapacity Act
- Major new responsibilities under the new Mental health Act

Commission's role under the new Act

- Monitoring its operation
- Promoting best practice, including the principles
- Specific duties to visit, investigate, give advice, publish etc
- Other duties around safeguards

Our mission statement

- Independent organisation
- Safeguarding role
- Working for people with all types of mental disorder
- Inclusive membership reflect the breadth of mental health stakeholders

Strategic objectives

- Help service users get the best care and treatment
- Help service providers recognise their duties and responsibilities
- Independent experts in applying best legal and ethical practice to care and treatment

Key activities

- Visiting
- Monitoring the operation of legislation
- Investigations and inquiries
- Advice and promotion of best practice
- Influencing and challenging service providers

We visit...

- People subject to compulsory orders
- People subject to Guardianship
- People in hospital
- People in prisons and YOIs
- Community facilities

Unannounced visits



Nobody expects the Mental Welfare
Commission!

Why do we visit people?

- Allow individuals to raise concerns
- Inspect facilities (physical facilities, amenities, availability of care and treatment)
- Identify good practice and challenge practice that needs to be improved
- Raise matters of concern with care staff and managers

Regular monitoring

- Quarterly statistics (main numbers of orders, point prevalence)
- Annual report (breakdown of orders, age/sex/ethnicity, geography etc)
- Special reports

Our initial monitoring priorities

- Emergency detention
- Care of young people
- Advance statement overrides
- Compulsory treatment in the community
- Care plans

INVESTIGATIONS & INQUIRIES

- Unlawful detention
- Ill-treatment, neglect, deficiency in care
- Loss or damage to property
- Living alone and unable to look after self

.....We may carry out formal inquiries with court-style powers (although we never have)

Advice and promotion of best practice

- Telephone advice service
- Good practice guides
- Principles into practice
- Agents of culture change