

Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Act 2018 statutory guidance

Does the guidance clearly explain what a policy on use of force should include?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If no, what else should be included in the policy on use force section of the guidance?

Whilst the guidance is comprehensive on what they policies should include, Healthwatch Birmingham feel that the involvement of patients, their families, carers, and independent advocates should be strengthened. As well as being involved in co-production of the policy, there is a role for consideration of ongoing feedback from patients, their families, carers, and independent advocates, throughout the life of the policy. Accountability and governance for collecting of feedback, and acting on feedback, should be clearly detailed in the policy.

To best understand the needs of the local population that each mental health unit serves, they should ensure they have the most recent available demographic data regarding their patient populations. This should include those currently choosing to not access care, as well as those that do. This ensures that all potential barriers to access are also examined as part of reflecting the local population's needs and experiences.

Local Healthwatch as a statutory body for patients and the public should be included as part of the co-production of policies. This should be clearly outlined in the guidance, to ensure that all areas of England are making the best use of local resources.

Does the guidance clearly explain what information should be given to patients on the use of force?

Yes

No

Not sure

If no, what other information should be included in the information on the use of force section of the guidance?

As part of the regular review of information provided about the use of force, a process of collecting, analysing and acting on patient and public feedback about this, should be detailed as part of the guidance. For instance when discussions are had with a patient, especially if the patient refuses the information, a clear process to feedback about the information should be in place.

When publishing information in other formats, co production with communities who have language or sensory needs ensures that this information is fit for purpose. As such a process for involving patients and the public in the review of information should be outlined.

The guidance emphasises the importance of involving patients, their families and carers in decisions about their own care.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure

Please give your reasons.

Whilst the guidance outlines the involvement of patients, their families and carers in decisions, as highlighted in our answers to previous questions, there are opportunities to strengthen the guidance around the use of feedback from patients, their families and carers, as well as the local population.

Responsibility for collecting, analysing and acting on feedback from patients, their families, carers, and the local population of the mental health unit should be clearly outlined in the guidance, as well as governance arrangements to ensure that this is carried out.

Staff need to understand the process to direct patients, families and carers to share their feedback on all areas around use of force.

Co-production of information and policies is strengthened by allowing continuous feedback on these areas, as well as regular reviews for improvement.

Feedback needs to be examined carefully to identify any barriers to engagement, as well as any inequities in the use of force, the policies and information around this.

The role of Local Healthwatch needs to be clearly outlined throughout this guidance, both as a source of feedback from patients and the public, but also to advise on successful engagement with the local population. This needs to be included in the guidance to ensure that practice is consistent across England.