



In the Headlines

The Review of Forensic Mental Health Services



The interim report of the review of Forensic mental health services has now been published.

The report can be found on the Scottish Government website via the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/independent-forensic-mental-health-review-interim-report/>

Forensic mental health services specialise in the assessment, treatment and risk management of people with a mental disorder who are currently undergoing or who have undergone legal or court proceedings. This review is looking at the way these services are delivered. Their final report will be published in early 2021.

We were interested to see that there are a lot of crossovers between the findings of this interim report and the responses we received when we asked for people's views on the wider mental health legislation. We are looking forward to hearing their recommendations next year and then considering how to take account of them in our own review.

Kathleen Taylor

This month, Kathleen Taylor, a member of the Advisory Group for Children and Young People shares her personal experience as a parent carer, how she came to be involved in the work of the review and the changes that she would like to see to Mental Health Law.

Read the full article on our website via the following link:

<https://www.mentalhealthlawreview.scot/news/how-i-became-involved-in-the-review-by-kathleen-taylor/>

Consulting with Parent/Carers for Children and Young Persons Advisory Group

Karen and Kathleen have been consulting with parent/carers for the Children and Young Persons workstream. This work will aid the review to better understand how Mental Health Law affects this group.

Click on the link below to find out more

<https://www.mentalhealthlawreview.scot/news/consulting-with-parent-carers-for-children-and-young-persons-advisory-group/>

Contact Us...

 Follow us @[MHLRScot](https://twitter.com/MHLRScot)

 Find us at Scottish Mental Health Law Review

Review in Focus

Update on Advisory Groups

Both the Economic, Social and Cultural and the Children and Young Persons advisory groups have started taking evidence from individuals and organisations on specific areas of mental health law that have been highlighted as areas of concern in the initial consultation. This evidence will help the review to determine if and how the law could be changed to deal with these concerns.

The evidence sessions are focussed on those at the core of mental health services and their delivery, including professionals, those with lived experience and carers.

Click on the links below to read an overview of the discussion from the last meeting of each of the groups.

[Children and Young Persons](#)

[Economic Social and Cultural](#)

[Capacity and Supported Decision Making](#)

The compulsion group will reconvene on 29th September and will look at the information around compulsory orders that the Mental Welfare Commission provided in their response to the review's call for evidence.

.

What's next...

Improving Communication for Carers

This month we have reviewed our communication and engagement plan based on the responses to the consultation. Lots of issues around communication were raised by those who care for individuals with a mental disorder. Amongst the most highlighted were the following concerns:

- Carers not receiving appropriate information and advice
- Carers not having their views and needs taken into account or kept informed about the care and treatment for the people they care for.
- Views of carers overridden by professionals regardless of the fact that there is a guardianship order in place.
- Not being able to get critical information about the person they care for because of how the law has been applied in relation to confidentiality.

The comms and engagement advisory group are working on how we can improve communication between carers, professionals and the individuals that they care for to resolve some of these issues. This might include recommendations on changes in Mental Health Law, raising awareness in some of these areas and implementing tools to help support communication.