

Summarised notes of Compulsion Workstream

Video Conference Meeting: 29-09-2020

In attendance: Nicola, John, Graham, Gordon, Laura, Neil and Rodger.

Secretariat: Kirsty McGrath

Apologies: Michael

The full discussion of the meeting is recorded this note serves only to summarise main points.

1. Overview

- The call for evidence started at the beginning of February, however due to COVID-19 all the planned face to face meetings couldn't go ahead.
- The consultation carried on, online, and was extended until the end of May, allowing more organisations to give evidence.
- Received over 250 responses – summary and first interim report on the Review website
- 2nd Interim report due in December
- We currently have 5 workstreams up and running -there may be additional ones set up in the new year.

John met with the Minister for Mental Health in early July to discuss the timescale for the review.

A detailed timetable will be set out in a second interim report in December. It is expected the work of the compulsion group will carry on beyond December.

2. Work of the Compulsion Group.

There was discussion about the need to be clear of the function of the Capacity and Supported Decision Making group and this one and any crossover.

The Mental Welfare Commission response to the Review's call for evidence had been sent out to the group before the meeting. Arun Chopra from the Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) will come along to the next group meeting in November.

It was stated that it is impossible to overstate the pressure on services just now. One statistic says that within the past 26 weeks we have seen a 15% increase in compulsory treatment.

There is a need to recognise the pressure on services and access to Mental Health Officers.

The sense is that more needs to be done in terms of shifting when support is available rather than waiting for a crisis to happen.

There has been a marked rise in Emergency detention certificates and a lack of safeguards around these.

There seems to be marked regional variation across the country on the use of compulsory measures – this is something the group considers is worth looking at more closely.

It was agreed the group is still very much at the evidence gathering stage.

3. Next steps

Arun Chopra from the MWC will come along to that meeting to talk more about some of the data the MWC can provide for the group.

The group agreed that they would look at some alternatives to compulsion.

The group agreed that they would explore geographical variations and repeat admissions in further detail.

4. Next Meeting

A doodle poll will be distributed to gauge availability for the next meeting.