

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Approved Mental Health Professional

Easy read



Enabling
Great Lives



Cheshire West
and Chester

Introduction



This information is about the Approved Mental Health Professional service in Cheshire West and Chester. We support people who are:



- Finding it very difficult to cope with their mental health and are



- Urgently in need of an assessment of their mental health – under the legislation called the Mental Health Act. We call this a Mental Health Act assessment.



A Mental Health Act assessment is when an Approved Mental Health Professional and doctors assess someone to work out the best way forward to provide support.

What we do



We go to assess people who are struggling with their mental health. We often go together with our colleagues (like doctors and nurses) to achieve the best outcome possible.



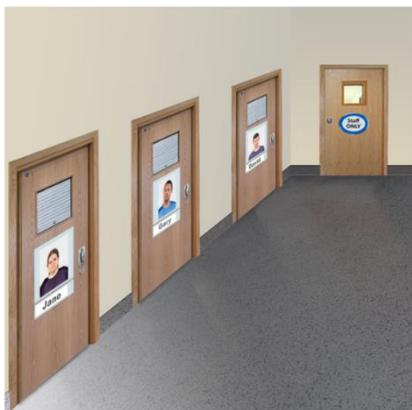
When we do the assessment, we try to:

- Make sure the person's mental health we assess does not get any worse



- Make every effort to include the person in the assessment

- Look at lots of different ways to support the person and decide together what is best for them.



- Do everything we can to keep the person and the people around them safe - this might mean the person has to stay in hospital for a while.

Who Are Approved Mental Health Professionals?



Only certain qualified staff can become Approved Mental Health Professionals. This includes:

- Social workers.
- Psychologists.
- Nurses.



Staff who would like to become Approved Mental Health Professionals need to do training at University.



Once they qualify, they are approved for 5 years. Approved Mental Health Professionals need to do at least 18 hours of training every year.



They are expected to keep up with the changes in the law. After 5 years a panel will decide whether they can be re-approved for a further 5 years.

For more information



If you need more information, or if you think somebody needs a Mental Health Act assessment please contact the Community Access Team by:

- Phone: 0300 123 7034



If you would like to make a complaint or give us some feedback please contact us by:

- Our website:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



- Phone: 0300 123 7034



- Post:

Cheshire West and Chester Council,
The Portal, Wellington Road,
Ellesmere Port,
CH65 0BA