

Mental Health

SECTION 136

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KEY FACTS ON MENTAL ILLNESS

- Severe mental health problems, such as schizophrenia affect around one in 200 people.
- Depression, anxiety and phobias can affect up to one in six of the population at any one time
- GPs spend a third of their time on mental health issues.
- Social Exclusion Unit Report 2004.




Lambeth

- 4,800 people are registered users of mental health services in Lambeth




MENTAL HEALTH PROTOCOLS

Joint Protocols dealing with Mental Health Issues

- South London and Maudsley Trust
 - Lambeth Social Services
 - Metropolitan Police, Lambeth Borough.
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Protocols include:


- The sectioning of people in the community
 - Reporting patients that are missing
 - The returning of missing patients
 - Offences committed by people suffering from mental illness
 - Guidance re the restraining of patients
 - Patient transfers
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The Mental Health Act states:

(1) If a constable finds in a place to which the public have access a person who appears to him/her to be suffering from mental disorder and to be in immediate need of care or control, the constable may, if s/he thinks it necessary to do so in the interests of that person or for the protection of other persons, remove that person to a place of safety

(2) A person removed to a place of safety under this section may be detained there for a period not exceeding 72 hours for the purpose of enabling him/her to be examined by a registered medical practitioner and to be interviewed by an approved social worker and of making any necessary arrangements for his treatment or care'



Place of Safety

The designated place of safety is:

Section 136 Suite (Eden Ward) Lambeth Hospital

or

Maudsley Hospital

Police Station. To be used only as a last resort.

The officer completes a form detailing the reason for use of the power, identifying the person and the time and date at which the power was used.

POLICE COPY OF FORM TO Insp O'Donnell Mental Health Liason Officer

Duty Officer Handover



How long do police stay with the patient ?

The decision about how long police will remain at the hospital with a section 136 patient is that of the duty officer and senior medical person present.

