**FROM THE HEALTHY LONDON PARTNERSHIP**

**CARE & TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS SUFFERING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS**

Dear Malcolm,

Thank you for your email to Healthy London Partnership (HLP). I work on the Crisis Care Programme at HLP, which focuses on the s136 pathway. To give some background on Healthy London Partnership, we bring together partners on specific programmes/projects, particularly where the issues are best tackled once for London.

I understand your concerns regarding long waits for access to places of safety and A&Es. Our programme has been working with London on implementation of a new model of care for s136 across London; one of the aims of which is to reduce delays in the pathway. Please do take a look at the resources on our website crisis care pages to find out more about this: <https://www.healthylondon.org/our-work/crisis-care/>​ I believe a few years ago, we came to speak to the LAS patient forum about the programme.

With regard to the spot purchasing of beds. Whilst this is not an area that I specifically work on, there has been recent analysis of the bed stock in London against the needs of the population. There is also work at NHS England London region to introduce clear standards and escalation protocols for London for s136 access and for admission to inpatient beds. I've copied in a colleague from the Mental Health Transformation team at HLP, who may have further to add.

Please let us know if you have any questions. In terms of coming to your meeting- I or a colleague from the crisis care programme could discuss s136 work, but probably someone else would be better placed to speak to you about beds.  Darren may be able to suggest.

kind regards,

MARTINA DALTON martina.dalton@nhs.net

Better crisis care for Londoners

Right now, we are working in partnership with London’s crisis care system to improve London’s Section 136 pathway and provision at health based place of safety sites. These are places where people detained by the police under Section 135 or 136 of the Mental Health Act are initially assessed.

Our work involves bringing together service users and carers, those working in mental health, acute care settings, social care, and other key partners in the crisis care system including London’s three police forces and the London Ambulance Service.

This has led to [London’s new Section 136 pathway and Health Based Place of Safety specification,](https://www.healthylondon.org/resource/mental-health-crisis-care-londoners/)launched by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Kahn, in December 2016. The pathway and specification are aimed at all stakeholders involved in the Section 136 care pathway. Combined, they outline a consistent pathway from initial pick up by the police to the completion of the Mental Health Act assessment and a minimum standard of care for health based place of safety sites for adults and young people.

The programme is now working with London’s crisis care system to operationalise both the pathway and specification. In particular, we are looking at how London’s current health based place of safety sites can provide the 24/7 service outlined in the specification and supported by stakeholders across the system.

For more information on this work programme please contact: [hlp.londoncrisiscare@nhs.net](mailto:hlp.londoncrisiscare@nhs.net)

Mental health crisis care for Londoners: Section 136 pathway and health based place of safety specification:

[**https://www.healthylondon.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Londons-section-136-pathway-and-HBPoS-specification-updated-Dec-2017.pdf**](https://www.healthylondon.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Londons-section-136-pathway-and-HBPoS-specification-updated-Dec-2017.pdf)

London’s section 136 pathway and Health Based Place of Safety specification guidance has been updated to reflect the changes made to the Mental Health Act that came into effect on 11 December 2017.

Mental ill health affects many Londoners. This year around one in four will experience a diagnosable mental health condition. That means 13 people on the bus this morning, more than 100 people on the tube on their way to work, and for children it’s about three in every school class.

These figures are staggering. They show we must work harder to prevent mental illness and provide a range of support for Londoners that can prevent them reaching crisis point. This guidance document is aimed at stakeholders involved in the section 136 pathway. Specifically, London’s police forces, London Ambulance Service, Approved Mental Health Professionals and Acute and Mental Health Trusts. It outlines a consistent pathway of care across London and a minimum standard for Health Based Place of Safety sites.

Both the s136 pathway and Health Based Place of Safety specification focus on all ages and should be used together to improve consistency of care in London. This document should be used in addition to London mental health crisis commissioning standards and recommendations (2014), the Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice (2015) and core principles of the [Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat](https://www.crisiscareconcordat.org.uk/) and [Future in Mind](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-mental-health-services-for-young-people) (2015).

The guidance covers the s136 pathway from when the individual is detained in a public place, conveyance processes, the interface with Accident and Emergency departments and processes at the Health Based Place of Safety (including the Mental Health assessment and arranging follow up care).

FORUM QUESTIONS TO THE HEALTH LONDON PARTNERSHIP

CARE OF PATIENTS SUFFERING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

**Steven Pidgeon, Programme Manager, Health London Partnership**

Dear Steven, the Forum is very concerned about the following issues:

1)    Long waits by patients suffering a mental health crisis in cars and ambulance outside places of safety and A&ES –some of whom have been sectioned under, s4, s135 or s136.

2)    The current situation regarding the use of spot purchasing of mental health beds leading to long waits in A&E, e.g. at the Homerton.

Can you please tell me if there is a plan to deal with these serious concerns and if you would be happy to meet our Patients' Forum to discuss these issues?

Very best wishes and thanks.

Malcolm Alexander

Chair

Patients' Forum for the LAS

[WWW.PATIENTSFORUMLAS.NET](http://www.patientsforumlas.net/)

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