



IDEAL PLACE OF SAFETY

SECTION 136 OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT



CQC 2014

When people are in crisis they are at their most vulnerable.

It is essential that they receive the care and support they need as quickly as possible, in a place they can feel safe, and that they are supported by people who understand their needs.

Survey assessing the provision & operation of HBPoS against national standards.



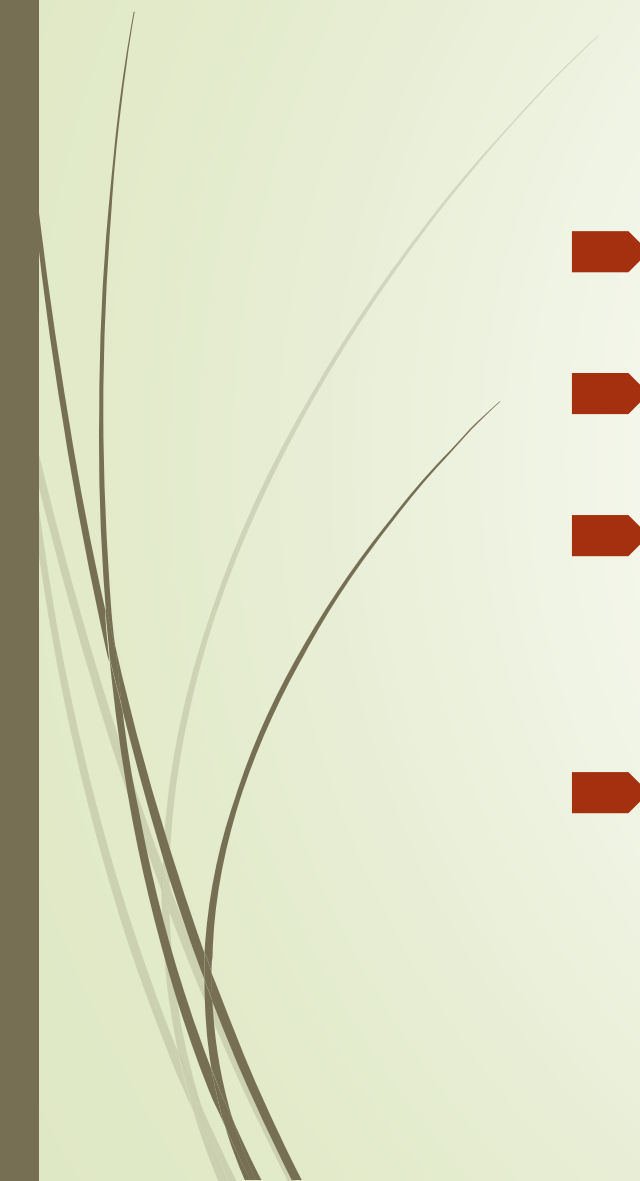
Royal College of Psychiatrists

- ▶ Dedicated emergency psychiatric S136 suite in **close proximity to acute admission wards** with **dedicated staff** for all detainees except for those in need of **urgent medical attention** or those that have committed **serious criminal offences**.
- ▶ Staffing levels should be sufficient 24 hours a day to ensure that the police can leave promptly after a handover period, even when the patient is disturbed.
- ▶ Patients who require more intensive support on account of disturbed behaviour can be admitted to the Mental Health Intensive Care facility where this is available.

Royal College of Psychiatrists. Standards on the use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983: report of the multi-agency group. London: RCP, 2008 (Report CR149)



SCENARIO

- 30 Year Old Male
 - Jumps 40ft onto top of building
 - Threatening to jump down and kill self
 - Persuaded down by Police and brought to ED under S136
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Commonly Used Places of safety

- Police Station

- effect of **criminalizing** people who are in need of medical attention, can **exacerbate** their mental state and in the most tragic cases can lead to **deaths** in custody

(1998-2011 Pts with MH problems accounted for 50% of all Deaths in custody)

- most appropriate POS for persons who have committed serious criminal offenses and those whose behaviour would pose a high risk to hospital staff and patients, provided there are no urgent physical health-care needs.

- Emergency Department

- Psychiatric Unit- Section 136 Suite (Beds, Exclusion criteria e.g. Alcohol, violent)

- Intermediate Care Facility- Purpose-built unit dissociated from formal inpatient facilities with easy access of medical facilities.



IDEAL PLACE OF SAFETY?

(One that meets all recommended national standards)

No single most appropriate place of safety for all groups of patients.

- ▶ D C Apakama. Emergency department as a 'place of safety'
Reviewing the use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in England
Medicine, Science and the Law 2012; 52: 1 – 5.



POSSIBLE SOLUTION

- ▶ Provide a range of HBPOS at regional level with single access point where patients are triaged to the most appropriate unit depending on their needs at the time.
- ▶ This should be based on agreed protocols, using real-time capacity management system to help streamline the process.
- ▶ In addition to regionally co-ordinated service, effective partnership working and joint training for agencies involved in detention, would significantly improve outcomes for people experiencing a mental health crisis.



RECOMMENDED TRIAGE GROUPS

1. POLICE STATION- People with no urgent physical health-care needs who have committed serious criminal offenses.
 2. EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT- Those in need of urgent medical attention.
 3. MENTAL HEALTH INTENSIVE CARE UNIT OF PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL- People who require intensive support on account of disturbed behavior.
 4. Section 136 Suite-All Others.
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