

## Mental Health Legislation

"The provision of services for the mentally ill are decided by the Northamptonshire PCT's Commissioners of Mental Health Services acting on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council and the National Health Service. For all users and their carers the Commissioners are expected to arrange for services to be provided that meet the standards set out in the 10 year programme known as the National Service Framework for Mental Health which was published in 1999. Standard 6 of this Framework specifically covers the standard of service and involvement that Carers should expect to receive. This framework and other papers set out the types of services we should be receiving by the end of 2009 in both Primary (GPs and local services) and secondary healthcare (Community Mental Health teams and specialist hospitals). If you want to read the National Service Framework for Mental Health click here:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_4009598](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4009598)

Many people voluntarily use specialist hospitals such as the Pendereds in Northampton and the Welland Centre in Kettering and the services of the Community Mental Health Teams in order to get help to recover from or manage their symptoms. Patients over 65 are usually referred to Princess Marina Hospital in Northampton or St Mary's in Kettering if they need to stay in hospital. They do this following a referral from their GP. A few go to St Andrews Hospital in Northampton which is not an NHS hospital but a private Charitable Trust. Others whose symptoms are less complex are starting to use the services of the new locally based Well-Being teams that are being set up around Northamptonshire. Nearly all these people are quickly able to resume a normal life and, indeed for many their treatment does not affect their life as seen by others: 1 in 6 adults around you will have a mental health problem at any one time - do you notice them?

In a very few cases where a patient has more complex mental health problems they may have to go to a specialist hospital whether or not they wish to be detained. These cases are governed by the Mental Health Act 1983 to which a series of significant changes are being introduced as a result of the Mental Health Act 2007. Most of these changes will come into effect on 3 November 2008. If you want to know more about this legislation the Care Services Improvement Partnership has a special section of explanation dedicated to Service Users and their Carers. This can be found by clicking on [www.mhact.csip.org.uk/sucs](http://www.mhact.csip.org.uk/sucs)