

Interim Protocol for requesting Mental Health Act Assessment for children and young people admitted to a ward at the Royal Alexandra Children's hospital with an Eating Disorder

**\*\*This protocol does not apply to children or young people in A&E\*\***

**Process:**

1. When any SFEDs patient admitted to the Royal Alexandra is being considered for **urgent** (that day or next) detention under the act there needs to be a **Consultant to Consultant** discussion with **Dr Liam Young** the CAMHS liaison Consultant (Monday to Friday) on **07795590252** - text if no answer and email [liam.young@spft.nhs.uk](mailto:liam.young@spft.nhs.uk) to check for cover arrangements if he is on leave.
2. If it is non-urgent (can wait 3 days or more) then SFEDS or medical team should discuss with Dr Young on the number above or email for an appointment to discuss.
3. Any patient requiring urgent detention due to refusal to stay should be held on section 5 (2) of the Mental Health Act and then Step 1 followed.
4. Following discussion Dr Young will advise on the next step. This will typical involve one of 3 options:
  - a. Advice based on clinical history and recommended plan
  - b. One off assessment to determine if the patient is detainable and provide first recommendation if they are.
  - c. Recommend referral to the AMHP base to request MHA assessment.
5. When detained under the Act, treatment for the mental disorder (including NG feeds) needs to be agreed first with the **Responsible Clinician**. The patient can only have leave from the hospital or be discharged with the express written consent of the **Responsible Clinician**. Currently Dr Young is the only available qualified person to carry out this role.
6. It needs to be considered therefore that detention under the act is likely to lengthen the patient's length of stay on the paediatric ward.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Mental Health Act

"The five guiding principles should be considered when making all decisions in relation to care, support or treatment provided under the Act:

**Least restrictive option** and  
**Maximising independence**  
**Empowerment and involvement,**  
**Respect and dignity, Purpose and effectiveness,**  
**Efficiency and equity."**

[Mental Health Act 1983 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk) - Code of Practice