



Emergency Admission

Revised March 2013

Emergency Admission

Care home name: The Wellbeing Residential Group

Aim of the Policy

This policy is intended to set out the values, principles and policies underpinning the Wellbeing Residential Group's approach to emergency placements and admission.

Policy Statement

The Wellbeing Residential Group accepts emergency placements but such placements:

- do not imply the right for a service user to stay in the home once the emergency is over
- do not commit the service user or home to the placement once the emergency is over.

All service users placed in the home as an emergency measure should be fully assessed once the emergency is over and relocated if the care provided here is not appropriate to their needs, or if the service user is considered inappropriate to the setting, or to existing service users. The Wellbeing Residential Group reserves the right to refuse admission or placement to any service user who it feels would be inappropriately placed in the home, or for whom the home does not have the required skills, resources or provision.

Policy on Emergency Placements

In the event of emergency admissions the Wellbeing Residential Group will pursue the following policies:

- service users placed in an emergency should be fully assessed and relocated if the care provided is not appropriate to their needs
- when an emergency placement is made, the Wellbeing Residential Group undertakes to inform the service user within 48 hours about key aspects, rules and routines of the home, and to meet all other admission criteria within five working days
- service users on respite/emergency/short-term placements or intermediate care/rehabilitation placements, and those in long-term placements, should occupy separate premises including communal day space, facilities and equipment, unless benefits for both groups can be demonstrated.

The Wellbeing Residential Group complies fully with the following provision of the Mental Health Act 1983.

Section 4 — Admission for Assessment in Cases of Emergency

This section is used when there is an emergency application for admission for assessment from the community. The criteria are as follows.

1. It is of urgent necessity for the client to be admitted and detained in hospital under s.4 and for reasons given under s.2. There must be evidence of:
 1. the existence of a significant risk of mental or physical harm to the client or to others; and/or
 2. the danger of serious harm to property; and/or
 3. the need for physical restraint of the client.

The application is made by the nearest relative or approved social worker. Either should have seen the client within the past 24 hours. This is to ensure that this section is only used in genuine emergencies and where there is no time to seek a second medical opinion. Only one medical recommendation is required. If possible this should be done by someone with knowledge of the client. The doctor must confirm that:

1. it is of urgent necessity for the client to be admitted and detained under s.2, and
2. waiting for a second doctor to confirm the need for admission under s.2 would cause undesirable delay.

The client must be admitted within 24 hours of the examination, or the application, whichever is earlier.

This section lasts for 72 hours from the time of admission.

With reference to the Mental Health Act 1983 it is the policy of the Wellbeing Residential Group that an applicant cannot seek admission for assessment under s.4 unless:

- the above criteria for admission for assessment are met
- the matter is of urgent necessity and there is not enough time to get a second doctor to give a second medical recommendation
- the emergency is a genuine emergency and is not being used for administrative convenience
- an emergency arises where those involved cannot cope with the mental state or behaviour of the service users; to be satisfied that an emergency has arisen, there must be evidence of:
 - the existence of a significant risk of mental or physical harm to the service user or to others; and/or
 - the danger of serious harm to property; and/or
 - the need for physical restraint of the service user.

Wherever the Wellbeing Residential Group expects that these criteria are possible a second doctor should be made available so that those considering the placement do not have to consider using s.4 in circumstances other than genuine emergencies.

Training

All appropriate staff will trained on individual care planning and risk assessments.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Policy review date: _____