Isle of Man Health Commission

Summary of the Commission's activities during the six months to June 30th 2021

The MHC made an announced visit on Tuesday 29th June 2021 after being deferred twice due to practical issues relating to COVID-19 restrictions and the availability of lay members. Three lay members attended the visit, while three professional members assisted remotely. Professional members inspected paperwork via Rio online (this is an electronic patient records system for mental health services), reviewed medication cards of detained patients and their associated forms 46 or 47 over the telephone.

Occupancy levels were high on the Harbour Ward, but there were no complaints, unlike previous visits, of repeated shifting of beds and unexpected prolongation of leave to accommodate new admissions. Staff morale was good. Parts of the unit needed updating and there were a number of complaints about the lack of variety and quality of alternative/ special needs diets. Activities were described as good and the property room was much improved. The MHC was pleased to note that the smoking ban was in place without any complaints from patients and patients were positive about the nursing staff in general. The Commission noted however that many patients were unaware of who their named nurse was. The MHC felt improvement was needed in the write up of medication cards, admission papers and capacity documentation while all seclusion records needed to be uploaded onto Rio to ensure effective auditing.

Ongoing Commission activities include ensuring prescribed medicines are appropriately reviewed by a Second Opinion Appointed Doctor (SOAD) and this activity continued to be done remotely while the border was closed to non-residents. The Commission is also responsible for receiving and investigating complaints and monitoring Mental Health Section 3 Tribunal Reviews.

Additional activities included:

- Meetings with senior health executives
- Monitoring MHS Statistical reports
- Participating in the Island's review of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) as required.
- Monitoring Manannan Court's response and protocols in place during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic