



National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990

1990 CHAPTER 19

PART III

COMMUNITY CARE: ENGLAND AND WALES

General provisions concerning community care services

46 Local authority plans for community care services

- (1) Each local authority—
 - (a) shall, within such period after the day appointed for the coming into force of this section as the Secretary of State may direct, prepare and publish a plan for the provision of community care services in their area;
 - (b) shall keep the plan prepared by them under paragraph (a) above and any further plans prepared by them under this section under review; and
 - (c) shall, at such intervals as the Secretary of State may direct, prepare and publish modifications to the current plan, or if the case requires, a new plan.
- (2) In carrying out any of their functions under paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1) above, a local authority shall consult—
 - (a) any District Health Authority the whole or any part of whose district lies within the area of the local authority;
 - (b) any Family Health Services Authority the whole or any part of whose locality lies within the area of the local authority;
 - (c) in so far as any proposed plan, review or modifications of a plan may affect or be affected by the provision or availability of housing and the local authority is not itself a local housing authority, within the meaning of the Housing Act 1985, every such local housing authority whose area is within the area of the local authority;

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- (d) such voluntary organisations as appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who use or are likely to use any community care services within the area of the authority or the interests of private carers who, within that area, provide care to persons for whom, in the exercise of their social services functions, the local authority have a power or a duty to provide a service.
 - (e) such voluntary housing agencies and other bodies as appear to the local authority to provide housing or community care services in their area; and
 - (f) such other persons as the Secretary of State may direct.
- (3) In this section—
- “local authority” means the council of a county, a metropolitan district or a London borough or the Common Council of the City of London;
 - “community care services” means services which a local authority may provide or arrange to be provided under any of the following provisions—
 - (a) Part III of the National Assistance Act 1948;
 - (b) section 45 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968;
 - (c) section 21 of and Schedule 8 to the National Health Service Act 1977; and
 - (d) section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983; and
 - “private carer” means a person who is not employed to provide the care in question by any body in the exercise of its functions under any enactment.

47 Assessment of needs for community care services

- (1) Subject to subsections (5) and (6) below, where it appears to a local authority that any person for whom they may provide or arrange for the provision of community care services may be in need of any such services, the authority—
 - (a) shall carry out an assessment of his needs for those services; and
 - (b) having regard to the results of that assessment, shall then decide whether his needs call for the provision by them of any such services.
- (2) If at any time during the assessment of the needs of any person under subsection (1) (a) above it appears to a local authority that he is a disabled person, the authority—
 - (a) shall proceed to make such a decision as to the services he requires as is mentioned in section 4 of the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986 without his requesting them to do so under that section; and
 - (b) shall inform him that they will be doing so and of his rights under that Act.
- (3) If at any time during the assessment of the needs of any person under subsection (1) (a) above, it appears to a local authority—
 - (a) that there may be a need for the provision to that person by such District Health Authority as may be determined in accordance with regulations of any services under the National Health Service Act 1977, or
 - (b) that there may be a need for the provision to him of any services which fall within the functions of a local housing authority (within the meaning of the Housing Act 1985) which is not the local authority carrying out the assessment,

the local authority shall notify that District Health Authority or local housing authority and invite them to assist, to such extent as is reasonable in the circumstances, in the

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making of the assessment; and, in making their decision as to the provision of the services needed for the person in question, the local authority shall take into account any services which are likely to be made available for him by that District Health Authority or local housing authority.

- (4) The Secretary of State may give directions as to the manner in which an assessment under this section is to be carried out or the form it is to take but, subject to any such directions and to subsection (7) below, it shall be carried out in such manner and take such form as the local authority consider appropriate.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall prevent a local authority from temporarily providing or arranging for the provision of community care services for any person without carrying out a prior assessment of his needs in accordance with the preceding provisions of this section if, in the opinion of the authority, the condition of that person is such that he requires those services as a matter of urgency.
- (6) If, by virtue of subsection (5) above, community care services have been provided temporarily for any person as a matter of urgency, then, as soon as practicable thereafter, an assessment of his needs shall be made in accordance with the preceding provisions of this section.
- (7) This section is without prejudice to section 3 of the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986.
- (8) In this section—
 - “disabled person” has the same meaning as in that Act; and
 - “local authority” and “community care services” have the same meanings as in section 46 above.

48 Inspection of premises used for provision of community care services

- (1) Any person authorised by the Secretary of State may at any reasonable time enter and inspect any premises (other than premises in respect of which any person is registered under the Registered Homes Act 1984) in which community care services are or are proposed to be provided by a local authority, whether directly or under arrangements made with another person.
- (2) Any person inspecting any premises under this section may—
 - (a) make such examination into the state and management of the premises and the facilities and services provided therein as he thinks fit;
 - (b) inspect any records (in whatever form they are held) relating to the premises, or any person for whom community care services have been or are to be provided there; and
 - (c) require the owner of, or any person employed in, the premises to furnish him with such information as he may request.
- (3) Any person exercising the power to inspect records conferred by subsection (2)(b) above—
 - (a) shall be entitled at any reasonable time to have access to, and inspect and check the operation of, any computer and any associated apparatus or material which is or has been in use in connection with the records in question; and
 - (b) may require—
 - (i) the person by whom or on whose behalf the computer is or has been so used; or

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- (ii) any person having charge of or otherwise concerned with the operation of the computer, apparatus or material, to give him such reasonable assistance as he may require.
- (4) Any person inspecting any premises under this section—
 - (a) may interview any person residing there in private—
 - (i) for the purpose of investigating any complaint as to those premises or the community care services provided there, or
 - (ii) if he has reason to believe that the community care services being provided there for that person are not satisfactory; and
 - (b) may examine any such person in private.
- (5) No person may—
 - (a) exercise the power conferred by subsection (2)(b) above so as to inspect medical records; or
 - (b) exercise the power conferred by subsection (4)(b) above, unless he is a registered medical practitioner and, in the case of the power conferred by subsection (2)(b) above, the records relate to medical treatment given at the premises in question.
- (6) Any person exercising the power of entry under subsection (1) above shall, if so required, produce some duly authenticated document showing his authority to do so.
- (7) Any person who intentionally obstructs another in the exercise of that power shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (8) In this section “local authority” and “community care services” have the same meanings as in section 46 above.

49 Transfer of staff from health service to local authorities

- (1) In connection with arrangements relating to community care services made by virtue of this Part of this Act, the Secretary of State may make regulations with respect to the transfer to employment by a local authority of persons previously employed by a National Health Service body.
- (2) Regulations under this section may also make provision with respect to the return to employment by a National Health Service body of a person to whom the regulations previously applied on his transfer (whether from that or another National Health Service body) to employment by a local authority.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsections (1) and (2) above, regulations under this section may make provision with respect to—
 - (a) the terms on which a person is to be employed by a local authority or National Health Service body;
 - (b) the period and continuity of a person’s employment for the purposes of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978;
 - (c) superannuation benefits; and
 - (d) the circumstances in which, if a person declines an offer of employment made with a view to such a transfer or return as is referred to in subsection (1) or subsection (2) above and then ceases to be employed by a National Health

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Service body or local authority, he is not to be regarded as entitled to benefits in connection with redundancy.

- (4) In this section—
- (a) “local authority” and “community care services” have the same meaning as in section 46 above; and
 - (b) “National Health Service body” means a Regional, District or Special Health Authority or a National Health Service trust.
- (5) Regulations under this section may make different provision with respect to different cases or descriptions of case, including different provision for different areas.

50 Powers of the Secretary of State as respects social services functions of local authorities

After section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 (local authorities to exercise social services functions under guidance of the Secretary of State) there shall be inserted the following sections—

“7A Directions by the Secretary of State as to exercise of social services functions

- (1) Without prejudice to section 7 of this Act, every local authority shall exercise their social services functions in accordance with such directions as may be given to them under this section by the Secretary of State.
- (2) Directions under this section—
 - (a) shall be given in writing; and
 - (b) may be given to a particular authority, or to authorities of a particular class, or to authorities generally.

7B Complaints procedure

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order require local authorities to establish a procedure for considering any representations (including any complaints) which are made to them by a qualifying individual, or anyone acting on his behalf, in relation to the discharge of, or any failure to discharge, any of their social services functions in respect of that individual.
- (2) In relation to a particular local authority, an individual is a qualifying individual for the purposes of subsection (1) above if—
 - (a) the authority have a power or a duty to provide, or to secure the provision of, a service for him; and
 - (b) his need or possible need for such a service has (by whatever means) come to the attention of the authority.
- (3) A local authority shall comply with any directions given by the Secretary of State as to the procedure to be adopted in considering representations made as mentioned in subsection (1) above and as to the taking of such action as may be necessary in consequence of such representations.
- (4) Local authorities shall give such publicity to any procedure established pursuant to this section as they consider appropriate.

7C Inquiries

- (1) The Secretary of State may cause an inquiry to be held in any case where, whether on representations made to him or otherwise, he considers it advisable to do so in connection with the exercise by any local authority of any of their social services functions (except in so far as those functions relate to persons under the age of eighteen).
- (2) Subsections (2) to (5) of section 250 of the Local Government Act 1972 (powers in relation to local inquiries) shall apply in relation to an inquiry under this section as they apply in relation to an inquiry under that section.

7D Default powers of Secretary of State as respects social services functions of local authorities

- (1) If the Secretary of State is satisfied that any local authority have failed, without reasonable excuse, to comply with any of their duties which are social services functions (other than a duty imposed by or under the Children Act 1989), he may make an order declaring that authority to be in default with respect to the duty in question.
- (2) An order under subsection (1) may contain such directions for the purpose of ensuring that the duty is complied with within such period as may be specified in the order as appear to the Secretary of State to be necessary.
- (3) Any such direction shall, on the application of the Secretary of State, be enforceable by mandamus.

7E Grants to local authorities in respect of social services for the mentally ill

The Secretary of State may, with the approval of the Treasury, make grants out of money provided by Parliament towards any expenses of local authorities incurred in connection with the exercise of their social services functions in relation to persons suffering from mental illness.”