

Cheswold Park Hospital Use of Force Statement

The Mental Health Units Use of Force Act (2018) came into effect in March 2022. As such, Cheswold Park Hospital has ensured to comply with the sections of this act to ensure safety and high-level care for the patients we are responsible for. All uses of force must be rights respecting, lawful and compliant with the Human Rights Act (1998).

Section 2 of the act requires that each unit appoints a responsible person who will be responsible for ensuring the requirements of the act are carried out. At Cheswold Park Hospital this is Rick Fuller (Director of Nursing and Operations). Section 10 of the act outlines that the responsible person can delegate responsibilities to other individuals of appropriate seniority. Therefore, Dr Charlotte Caton (Director of Clinical Services) is the Chair of the Reducing Restrictive Practices and Use of Force Committee and responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the strategy within the hospital.

Section 3 of the act requires that each unit must publish a policy regarding the use of force by staff who work in that unit. 'The Reducing Restrictive Practices and Use of Force policy' is the overarching policy to meet this requirement, however the following policies refer to specific types of force used within the hospital;

- Positive and safe management of violence and aggression policy
- Seclusion policy
- Long term segregation policy
- Pharmacological management of acute disturbance policy
- The safe and exceptional use of mechanical restraint policy

Section 4 of the act requires that information must be published for patients about their rights in relation to the use of force by staff who work in that unit. At Cheswold Park we have involved patients in the production of this information and the co-produced leaflet is entitled 'Restrictive Practices at Cheswold Park Hospital; What are they and when might they be used'.

Section 5 of the act requires that the responsible person must ensure staff receive appropriate training in the use of force. Staff within Cheswold Park Hospital are trained in adopting a positive and safe approach in the Proactive Management of Violence and Aggression (PMVA). The training approach within Cheswold Park Hospital also received accreditation from BILD and the Restraint Reduction Network.

Section 6 of the act requires that the responsible person must keep records of the use of any force on a patient who work in that unit which includes demographic data across protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010. On a two monthly basis the data set including the protected characteristic information is reviewed by the Reducing Restrictive Practices and Use of Force Committee. In addition, any use of force is monitored on a weekly basis by a group of senior clinicians to ensure any emerging trends are identified and responded to quickly.

Sections 7, 8 and 11 impose duties on the Secretary of State and for Health and Social Care. Section 9 outlines that if a patient dies or suffers serious injury that the responsible must have regard to any relevant guidance relating to investigations of deaths or serious injuries.

Finally, section 12 outlines that if a police officer is going into a mental health unit to assist staff in that unit the police officer must wear and operate a body camera at all times where reasonably practicable. To that end, we have updated several of our policies to reflect this situation. We have also amended our reception forms for visitors to remind visiting police officers of their duties. The policies updated within Cheswold Park hospital include.

- Reporting incidents to the police
- Visitors
- Major incident plan
- Major incident procedures
- CCTV