



**2023**

**2024**

# Looking at the Mental Health Act between 2023 and 2024

**March 2025**



Easy read version of 'Monitoring the Mental Health Act in 2023/24'

# About this booklet



We are the Care Quality Commission. We check services like hospitals and care homes to make sure they give good care to people.



We also check that health staff follow a law called the **Mental Health Act**. This law helps decide if a person with a serious mental illness needs to be kept and treated in a hospital.



This booklet looks at what we found out about the treatment of patients kept in hospital under the Mental Health Act in 2023 and 2024.

# What we did



We spoke to 4,634 patients and 1,435 carers.



We also spoke to staff who were caring for these people in hospitals.



We want to say thank you to everyone we spoke with. Talking to them has helped us to do our job and learn about what care is like.

# The Mental Health Bill



The government is planning to make changes to the Mental Health Act to try to make it better for people with mental health needs.



We think these changes will help protect people's rights when they need to be kept and treated in hospital for their mental health.



But we also think mental health services need more money to make sure everyone gets good care.

# What happens when people need mental health support?



We are worried that lots of people who need mental health support are not getting the right care at the right time.



This can mean that people's mental health gets worse while they wait for support.



Sometimes we saw people kept and treated in hospitals that are far away from their homes.



Others were treated on wards that did not meet their needs, like children being treated on wards for adults.

## Mental health staff



Some mental health services did not have enough staff.



At other services, staff were unhappy and did not want to carry on working there.





We also saw some staff who did not have the right training and support to care for people.

## Are people treated fairly?



We are concerned that care for people with mental health needs is worse for some groups of people, like those from ethnic minority backgrounds.



Not all services met people's needs and some staff were not trained to care for autistic people.



We also found problems where mental health services did not make sure everyone understood their rights.

## Children and young people



If children and young people need mental health support, they may have to wait a long time or could be treated far away from home.



Lots of services had staff who were specially trained to care for children and young people.





Training Room

But in some cases, there were not enough staff with the right training to care for children and young people.



When it's time for children and young people to move to services for adults, they might not get the care they need.

## Mental health wards



Some mental health wards were nice places for people to stay in.



But some wards were old and unsafe,  
and did not meet people's needs.



Being outside can help people with  
mental health needs to get better,  
and lots of services had gardens.



But not all gardens were nice, some  
were less safe or did not have many  
places for people to sit.

# Find out more



You can see the full version of our report on our website at:

[www.cqc.org.uk/mhareport](http://www.cqc.org.uk/mhareport).



If you want to give feedback on your care – it can be good or bad – fill out our form at:

[www.cqc.org.uk/givefeedback](http://www.cqc.org.uk/givefeedback).



Or you can call us on:

**03000 61 61 61**