

School of Education, Sport and Health Sciences Policy on learners attending practice learning if detained under the Mental Health Act (1983).

This document outlines the School of Education, Sport and Health Sciences position on learners attending practice learning if on an active mental health section. Being on a section means that the learner is being detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act (1983) due to:

- Needing to be assessed or treated for their mental health problem
- Their health being at risk of getting worse without treatment
- Their safety or safety of others being at risk without treatment

(Mind, 2020)

Whilst it is recognised that for some learners continuing with their studies is a positive part of their recovery, the Nursing & Midwifery Council (2018) and the Health & Care Professions Council (2016) codes require learners to manage their health and be fit for practice to minimise risk to self and others:

- HCPC Section 6: Managing Risk

6.1 You must take all reasonable steps to reduce the risk of harm to service users, carers and colleagues as far as possible.

6.2 You must not do anything, or allow someone else to do anything, which could put the health or safety of a service user, carer or colleague at unacceptable risk.

6.3 You must make changes to how you practise, or stop practising, if your physical or mental health may affect your performance or judgement, or put others at risk for any other reason.

- NMC:

13.4 Take account of your own personal safety as well as the safety of people in your care

19.1 Take measures to reduce as far as possible, the likelihood of mistakes, near misses, harm and the effect of harm if it takes place

20.9 Maintain the level of health you need to carry out your professional role

Following consultation with practice partners, in order to ensure the safety and fitness to practice of the student and protection of service users, it has been agreed that:

- Students or apprentices that are detained under the Mental Health Act will not be permitted to attend their placements.

- Return to placement will be reviewed by the learner and course leader/ placement leader once the student is no longer on section and has been signed off as fit for placement by occupational health, or if appropriate, their GP/ psychiatrist.
- Learners will be supported by their course leader and practice learning lead to identify when and how lost placement hours can be made up.
- Where lost hours cannot be made up during the current academic year, the student may need to retake the year of study or recommence a new placement.
- Learners will also be supported with any further reasonable adjustments that may be recommended by their course leader, practice learning lead and disability and dyslexia service where appropriate.

Learners must inform their course leader if they are on Section so that discussions can take place about their academic studies and practice learning.

If the Student Wellbeing Service become aware that a learner has been detained under the mental health act a Wellbeing Practitioner will attempt to contact the student to offer support and ask them to disclose this to their Course Leader so that the appropriate support and risk assessment can be undertaken in accordance with this policy and the fitness to practice policy. If the Wellbeing Practitioner is unable to contact the learner, or the learner does not share this information of their own volition, then the Wellbeing Practitioner will liaise with the Course Leader in accordance with the data sharing framework between the service and the School.

Health and Care Professions Council (2016) *Standards of Conduct Performance and Ethics*.

Nursing and Midwifery Council (2018) *The Code: Professional Standards of Practice and Behaviour for nurses, midwives and nursing associates*.