

## **MHB003 - Unigolyn**

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### **Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament**

Bil arfaethedig – Datblygu'r Bil Safonau Gofal Iechyd Meddwl (Cymru) |  
Proposed Development of the Mental Health Standards of Care (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan: Unigolyn | Evidence from: Individual

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### **Enshrining overarching principles in legislation**

#### **Question 1: Do you think there is a need for this legislation?**

As a user of services for nearly 30 years and a Lived Experience professional for 3 years, I have seen many improvements since I first accessed services but I don't feel that there has been the coherent cultural shift that is required to create a sustainable Relationship Centred approach to care.

#### **Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with the overarching principles that the Bill seeks to enshrine?**

I agree

### **Specific changes to existing legislation**

#### **A. Nearest Relative and Nominated Person**

#### **Question 3: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to replace the Nearest Relative (NR) provisions in the Mental Health Act 1983 with a new role of Nominated Person?**

#### **Can you provide reasons for your answer.**

I agree because, for some people, they would not or could not include a NR in their care and support plan. Many people rely on their own network and so being able to nominate a person would provide that option.

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## **B. Changing the criteria for detention, ensuring the prospect for therapeutic benefit**

**Question 4: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to change in the criteria for detention to ensure that people can only be detained if they pose a risk of serious harm either to themselves or to others?**

**Can you provide reasons for your answer.**

In principle I agree but there should be access to in-patient provision for an individual if they require it. Detention should be necessary not punitive.

**Question 5: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to change in the criteria that there must be reasonable prospect of therapeutic benefit to the patient?**

**Can you provide reasons for your answer.**

I agree that there must be a therapeutic / educational prospect for a patient as this will empower them to participate in their own recovery.

## **C. Remote (Virtual) assessment**

**Question 6: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to introduce remote (virtual) assessment under 'specific provisions' relating to Second Opinion Appointed Doctors (SOADs), and Independent Mental Health Advocates (IMHA)?**

**Can you provide reasons for your answer.**

I do agree as there are many factors that can deny a patient access to services including, geography, transport and anxiety. Virtual assessments could address some of these factors. This would also allow for a greater access to Welsh language provision.

## **D. Amendments to the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010**

**Question 7: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to amend the Measure to ensure that there is no age limit upon those who can request a re-assessment of their mental health?**

**Can you provide reasons for your answer.**

I agree. Many people in services live with an outdated diagnosis or have been misdiagnosed. This can mean that people are not getting the correct support

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they require. A diagnostic 'label' can follow you through services and limit your recovery so we should reassess when necessary to improve patient outcomes.

**Question 8: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to amend the Measure to extend the ability to request a re-assessment to people specified by the patient?**

**Can you provide reasons for your answer.**

In the correct circumstance I would agree as patients do not always have the capacity to manage their own care. I would be wary of potential exploitation and would want to see robust regulation around Advocacy and control.

**General Views**

**Question 9: Do you have any views about how the impact the proposals would have across different population groups?**

I would hope that any proposals were inclusive of everyone but differences, including age, gender, religion, cultural diversity and sexuality, should be recognised and addressed in an All Wales provision

**Question 10: Do you have any views about the impact the proposals would have on children's rights?**

No.

**Question 11: Do you have any general views on the proposal, not covered by any of the previous questions contained in the consultation?**

I feel that all proposed changes should be explored through co-production and include the voices of patients and carers.

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