

Title: A Review of Part I Assessments Under the Mental Health Measure (Wales) 2010: Exploring the impact of changing regulations to expand professionals eligible to undertake assessments

Summary of options proposed:

Section 48 of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure (2010) (MHM) requires Welsh Ministers to review sections of the Measure on a regular basis. This impact assessment is looking at options relating to the regulations that set out which professions can undertake Part I assessments, currently limited to registrants (social workers, occupational therapist, mental health nurses, registered psychologists and medics)

The options being explored include:

1. Do nothing (leave regulations as they are)

Positive Impacts

- Registration provides clear roles for staff
- To protect staff who are offering specialist interventions from having to do Part I assessments

Negative IMPACTS:

- Reviews identified variable quality of assessments
- Less flexibility in using staff resources
- Possible impacts on managing capacity and demand / meeting wait times

2. Expand the list of professionals able to undertake assessments (no additional training)

Positive Impacts

- To recognise the skills of other professional groups who may already possess the skills to assess
- To reduce duplication in assessment
- More flexibility to use staff resources / widen recruitment pool
- To manage capacity and demand / Reduce wait times

Negative IMPACTS:

- Higher risks of variable quality assessments than currently
- Would need to change regulations frequently to recognise emerging professions
- Increases risk of harm without additional measures to ensure quality

3. Expand the list of professionals (competency-based approach)

Positive Impacts

- Ensures the competency level of the individual practitioners to undertake the assessment role / improved quality of assessments
- Less risk of harm
- Enables staff to pursue professional development and increase career choices for non-registrants

Negative IMPACTS:

- Reduces risk of harm through standardised training approaches though still there with all three options
- Time and resource heavy

- **It is recommended that the Welsh Government change regulations to enable a competency-based approach to determining Part I assessors**

It is recommended that HEIW and Social Care Wales work with a range of stakeholders to review and expand upon original work done to develop a PMHSS curriculum, to introduce a clear competency framework and module-based accreditation route to undertaking Part I assessments.