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.