



Briefing paper February 2009	2
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Mental Health Act 1983 as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007

Summary	<p>The changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Definition of Mental Disorder: a single definition of mental disorder ➤ Criteria for detention: A new “appropriate medical treatment” test in place of the “treatability test”. ➤ Broadening of the group of practitioners who can undertake functions previously performed by Approved Social Workers and Responsible Medical Officers ➤ Giving patients the right to make an application to displace their nearest relative (NR) and enabling the Count Courts to displace a NR ➤ Introducing Supervised Community Treatment (SCT) for patients following a period of detention in hospital ➤ Reducing the time before a case has to be referred to the Mental Health Tribunal and introducing a single Tribunal for England ➤ Ensuring patients aged under 18 who are admitted to hospital for a mental disorder re accommodated in an environment suitable for their age (subject to their needs) ➤ Introducing independent mental health advocacy for patients who are subject to the Mental Health Act ➤ Electro-convulsive Therapy: introducing new safeguards for patients
Action points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Are Trustees and volunteers aware of the changes and possible impact/opportunities related to service delivery? ➤ Do staff, volunteers and service users need training? ➤ What policies and procedures will need reviewing to take account of the changes?
Sources of information	<p>http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NationalServiceFrameworks/MentalHealth/DH_078743 - there is an overview and more detail.</p> <p>Please contact me if you are interested in training which could be devised for specific groups around particular areas e.g. for community staff looking in more detail at Supervised Community Treatment.</p>
Author	<p>Ruth Stretton – Training and Development Officer SDVSMHF email – ruth.stretton@sdvsmhf.org.uk tel: 01773 599995</p>