

Adult Care and Wellbeing
Approved Mental Health
Professionals
Annual Report 2022 - 2023



Version
October 2023

Sheffield City Council
[Sheffield.gov.uk/home/social-care](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/social-care)

Working with you to make Sheffield
HEALTHIER



Contents

Introduction	3
About AHMPS	4
Performance	8
National standards	
Outcomes - a case study	8
Our priorities 2023 - 2024	9

Introduction

Welcome to our Annual Approved Mental Health Professionals Annual Report covering the period 2022 to 2023.

The Annual report was implemented set out in our [Cycle of Assurance](#) and our focus on ensuring our statutory Approved Mental Health Professionals provision is delivering on the standards and outcomes we expect for citizens of Sheffield.

The Annual report also sets out priorities for the remainder of 2023 – 2024 which will enable us to continue to deliver on our statutory duties and deliver upon the Adult Care Strategy - [Living the life you want to live](#) and through this achieve our vision which is: -

“Everyone in Sheffield lives in a place they can call home, in communities that care doing, things that matter to them, celebrated for who they are and when they need it, they receive care and support that prioritises independence, choice, and recovery.”

In this first Annual Report, we aim to increase understanding of the role by providing information about what Approved Mental Health Professionals are, what we do and our legal requirements.

We also provide information about our performance and our delivery against our National Service Standards. The aim of these Standards is to provide direction, standards, and to encourage the voice of those who meet AMHP services to aid service future development.



Our priority and approach is to build upon our partnerships and work with individuals, carers, communities and our partners to build networks and opportunities which promote recovery. Our delivery is guided through our Council Values which provide the guiding principles for all we do:



About Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPS)

Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) are highly skilled, experienced, specialist professionals, trained to undertake Mental Health Act (MHA) Assessments with Doctors. Since 2007, Mental Health Nurses, Occupational Therapists and Psychologists have joined Social Workers as being eligible to train as AMHPs. In practice, social workers make up most of the practicing AMHPs.

Local Authorities have a statutory obligation to provide enough AMHPs to deliver an accessible service 24hrs a day, 365 days per year.

An assessment by an AMHP under the MHA is undertaken when a person is deemed to be a risk to themselves or others due to the nature and degree of their mental disorder. It is only undertaken when it felt that all other ways of supporting the person have been exhausted and consideration of a hospital admission is being made. The individual remains central to the MHA assessment and all other considerations relating to the assessment must not detract from this principle.



The role of AMHPs is to provide an independent decision about whether there are alternatives to detention under the Act, bringing a social perspective to bear on their decision, and taking account of the least restrictive option and maximising independence guiding principle". The AMHP role also includes: -

- ✓ Arranging for the assessment of individuals with two Medical Practitioners who must be independent of each other and at least one of whom should be a specialist in mental health called being 'section 12 approved' under section 12 MHA.
- ✓ Ensuring equality in our approach by taking account of factors such as gender, culture, ethnicity, age, sexuality, disability in their assessments and overcoming any communication barriers.
- ✓ Promoting joint assessments (the AMHP plus the two doctors) as this ensures that the individual is not subject to repeated assessments and allows for a sharing of risk and professional judgement.

- ✓ Prioritising those most at risk, such as people living alone in the community who may because of their mental disorder be placing themselves at risk of significant, neglect, self-harm, or misadventure.

Central to the role of the AMHP is the ability to make sound legal decisions around the use of compulsory powers in a way that is both lawful and promotes the autonomy of the individual, while safeguarding the person, the family and the wider public.

How is the AMHP service provided in Sheffield?

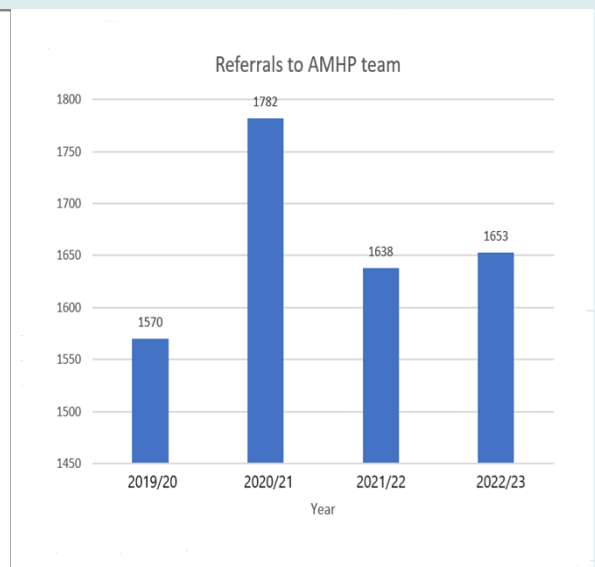
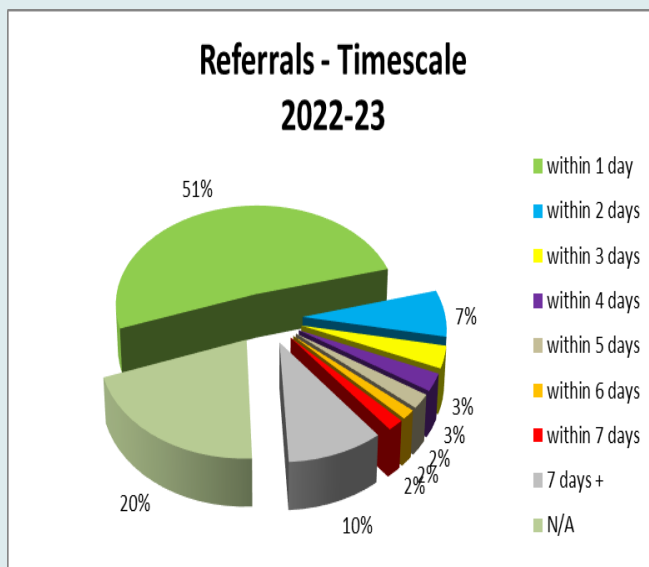
The AMHP Service is provided through a centralised AHMP Service which is delivered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with AHMPS in community teams providing occasional support.

<p>Centralised AHMP Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Deliver a service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through a stratified shift-based approach. ✓ Composed of 18.5 whole time equivalent with 2 senior team managers. ✓ Provides a dedicated AHMP Service to respond to the legal obligations of the local authority ✓ Delivery of a dedicated duty contact line. 	<p>Community Based AHMP Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Deliver AHMP role in addition to community social work roles. ✓ Contribution to specialist Mental Health Activity ✓ AMHP advice in community teams
<p style="text-align: center;">AHMP Duty</p> <p>AMHP duty in Sheffield is provided 24 hours round the clock, there are three distinct groups of AMHP staff within this team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daytime -who primarily work in between the hours of 730 till 1930 Monday to Friday • Out of Hours -who primarily work from 16:00 through the night, weekends, and bank holidays. • Hybrid – who can be moved and directed to cover any shift across the 24-hour clock where the need arises. <i>All new vacancies for posts within the Central AMHP team are hybrid because of the flexibility it brings.</i> 	
<p>Over 2023/ 2024 We Will: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recruit to additional 2 AHMPS so that our compliment becomes 18.5 WTE. ✓ Undertake an AMHP workforce Development and delivery plan, so that our centralised service can meet statutory requirements on an ongoing basis. 	<p>Over 2023/ 2024 We Will: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implement a dedicated campaign to promote the AHMP role in all Community Teams. ✓ Recruit and train more AHMPS as part of community Teams to provide mental health expertise across Adult Care.

✓ Coordinate AHMPS, Social Work Out of Hours and Duty Management Cover so that there is a coordinated response and ongoing Management Cover for AHMPS as required.

Our Performance

AHMPs Performance is looked at in terms of information we monitor, our referrals, timeliness, and outcomes for individuals.



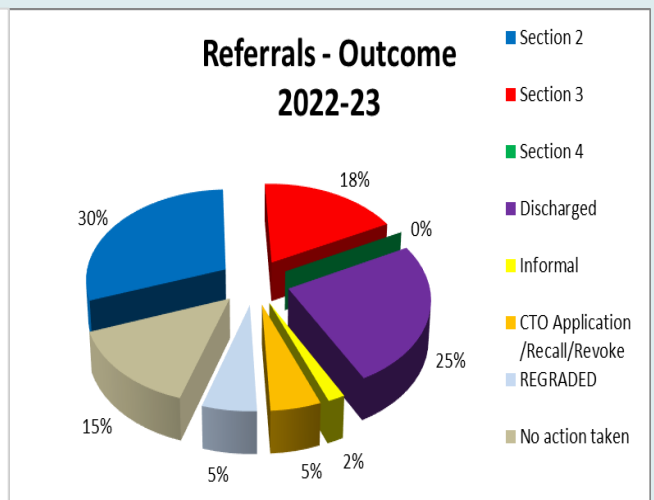
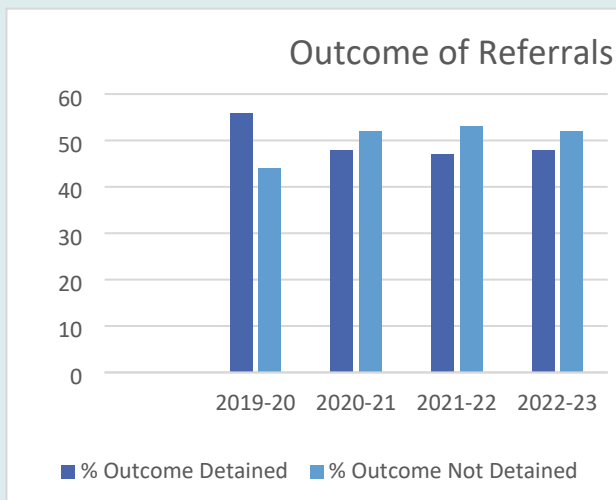
Over the past 4 years referrals to the AMHP team have been steadily increasing with a huge surge in the year of the Covid 19 lockdown. Indications already tell us that the AMHP team has received 807 referrals in the first 6 months of returning to SCC.

During the Period 2022 – 2023, 7% of all the referrals to the AMHP team (118 referrals) related to Young People under the age of 18.

- 58% of referrals (High Risk) were responded to within 48 hours.
- 12% of referrals were responded to within one week.
- 20% (334) of referrals resulted in no further action.

10% of referrals were responded to over 7 days. This is due to these referrals necessitating a complex and logistically challenging approach involving the cooperation and coordination of several other key agencies and stakeholders.

With the planned AMHP workforce development and delivery program to increase AHMPs in 2023 to 2024, its aimed to reach a position where the % of referrals responded to within 24 hours has increased to 70%. on a consistent basis.



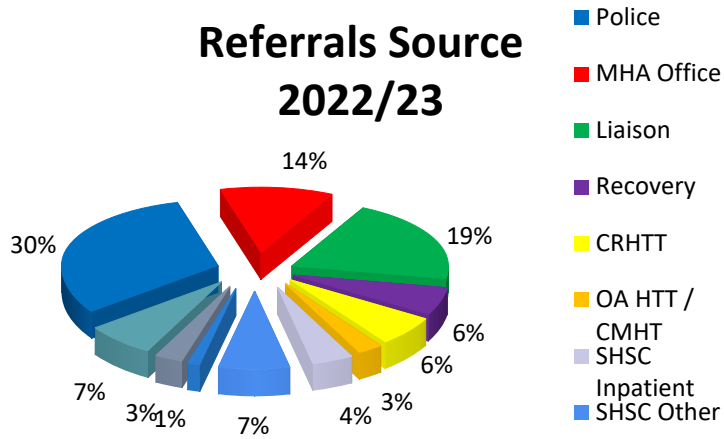
Evidence of least restrictive interventions:

40% of referrals had no action taken, or were informally supported, or not admitted in an emergency, whilst 18% of people were admitted to hospital for treatment for their health, safety or protection for up to 6 months. Over the past four years the service has increased the % of people where the outcome was not to admit to hospital, which indicates a continued trajectory towards using least restrictive options.

30% of people were kept in hospital for up to 28 days in 2022 - 2023 (Section 2 of the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983) giving doctors time to assess what type of mental disorder a person has and then decide if they need any treatment.

For more information on the Sections of the 1983 Act, please see here: [About sectioning - Mind](#)

Referrals Source 2022/23



During 2022 – 2023, most of the referrals were from Police and Health Services.

Multi-disciplinary working is key to success of the AMHP service. This is an ongoing priority for 2023 – 2024.

Our Performance – National Standards

Our priority is to deliver upon the National Service Standards and with that an accessible, responsive, and excellent quality support to the people of Sheffield and our partners. On 16th March 2022, Sheffield City Council approved the return of all Mental Health Social Work Provision to Sheffield City Council. Social Workers returned on 1st April 2023 following this decision with activity completed during 2022 to 2023 to support transfer and build AMHP capacity.

A self-evaluation of our performance against the six National Service Standards and the DASS Assurances was undertaken to support and prioritise activities which will deliver the conditions to ensure AMHP Provision.

The six National Service Standards are: -

- ✓ Local Authority Governance and Connection to National and Regional AMHP Networks
- ✓ Governance within 24-hour AMHP services
- ✓ AMHP Service Scope
- ✓ AMHPs' personal, professional, physical and psychological safety
- ✓ Service and professional development
- ✓ Improving the experience of people who come into contact with AMHP service.

National Standards are being met. Key areas of to highlight are: -

- ✓ A Dedicated AMHP Service Manager has been appointed and there is a clear structure for management within the AMHP service which is a centralised model providing 24/7 AMHP duty.
- ✓ There is an Operation's Director dedicated Assistant Director, Chief Social Work Officer (Principal Social Worker and Caldicott Guardian) which were implemented in 2022 – 2023 with oversight and direct line of reporting to the DASS, including support out of hours.
- ✓ There is a centralised AMHP Team which can provide 24 hour 7 days a week service and with that the team and service are linked into regional forums which can disseminate good practice and learning.
- ✓ Upon return of AMHP to the Local Authority, this identified need to build AMHP capacity to meet demand and statutory requirements. Due to this recruitment planned throughout 2023 to reach required capacity.
- ✓ Data recording systems are in place to enable continuous improvement, including a cycle of assurance to embed annual reporting on AMHP Performance and a governance framework to support ongoing learning.
- ✓ There is a AMHP Learning and Development process in place which ensures that CPD is maintained, and a process is in place for renewals.

Our Priorities for 2023 – 2024

Based on our learning from National Standards, our performance and ambitions, our priorities for 2023 to 2024 are to implement: -

- ✓ Recruitment to additional 2 AMHPS to the Central AMHP team so that statutory requirements can be met.
- ✓ A campaign to identify and build community based AMHP so that this builds capacity of the workforce and embeds mental health expertise across all community teams.
- ✓ Align AMHP development into the refresh of the Strategy Delivery and Directorate Plan so that the role of AMHP are supported.
- ✓ Embed annual performance reporting to committee as part of cycle of assurance and governance in relation to AMHP provision.
- ✓ Promote referrals to the Carers Centre to support unpaid carers in their role.
- ✓ Embed co-production and involvement of individuals and carers in the development of the AMHP Service.
- ✓ Continue to maintain clear effective links and relations with our major stakeholders in the city and the wider region.