Leaflet/fact sheet in respect of section 117 aftercare

This factsheet explains what services you might get and when your care will end. This factsheet is for anyone who might be entitled to section 117 aftercare and their parents or carers.

‘Aftercare’ means the help you get when you leave hospital.

• You are entitled to section 117 aftercare if you have been in hospital under sections 3, 37, 45A, 47, or 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

• You won’t get free aftercare if you have been in hospital under any other section of the Mental Health Act.

• The NHS and social services should give your aftercare for free.

• The aftercare should focus on your mental health needs. It should help you to get better and stay out of hospital. Your assessment will identify what your aftercare needs are and how these will be met

• You may get things that assist you to remain well there are too many things to list that may help you, but could include help with work or education and leisure activities

• Children under the age of 16 or 16 to 18 if in full time education will receive free medications. A young person age 16 to 18 in employment will be charged the national rate for their medications.

• Your aftercare might be organised under the Care Programme Approach (CPA). This system is under review and will be replaced with an updated system personalised to the individual.

• Your aftercare should only stop when you no longer need it to stay well.

• If you have any problems or questions, you can talk to your Lead Professional or care coordinator, or another member of your care team. An advocate might be able to help you if you need them too. If you’re still unhappy with your care you could think about making a complaint.

Compiled February 2024