New Mental Health Services – *Have your say!*

We are looking for people to take part in our study.

Before you decide whether you are interested, it is important for you to understand why the study is being done and what it will involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

Thank you for reading this.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

Within the last two years, changes have been made to mental health services in Wales. These changes were introduced in a piece of law called the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 (the Measure)\(^1\) by the National Assembly for Wales and are being delivered by Health Boards and local authorities in partnership.

The Welsh Government is undertaking a Review of the new services and considers it critical to gather the views and experiences of people using mental health services and their carers. Opinion Research Services (ORS), an independent research company, has been commissioned to carry out consultations to input into this Review.

One of these changes is aimed at people who are detained under short-term sections (Section 4 and 5(2)) of the Mental Health Act 1983 or in hospital and receiving treatment for their mental health on a voluntary basis. These patients can ask for help from an Independent Mental Health Advocate (IMHA). An IMHA is an independent and specially trained advocate who will support patients receiving inpatient care and treatment and those receiving treatment in the community subject to the Mental Health Act 1983.

**Why have I been approached?**

Within the last two years you received support from an IMHA whilst you were in hospital as a voluntary patient or detained short-term (under Section 4, 5(2) or 5(4) of the Mental Health Act 1983).

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\(^1\) Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010  [http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/nhswales/healthservice/mental-health-services/measure/?lang=en](http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/nhswales/healthservice/mental-health-services/measure/?lang=en)
**What will happen to me if I take part?**

You are being asked to take part in a telephone interview and to share your views and opinions on the Independent Mental Health Advocacy service. The interview will last for about half an hour and will be recorded to make sure that we have an accurate record. The recording will only be used by the ORS research team and will be stored on the ORS secure server. Any personal or other identifiable information will be removed. If you would prefer not to be interviewed by telephone but would like to share your views with us ORS might be able to arrange an alternative for you.

**Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to take part. If you decide that you are willing to be interviewed, you will be asked to sign a consent form. A convenient time will be arranged with you for the telephone call. You will be free to withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

The information will help Welsh Government to review the operation of the IMHA service.

**What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?**

There are no foreseeable risks of taking part. The only disadvantage would be taking half an hour out of your time. We shall be asking about the service that you received and not about any personal details.

**What if there is a problem?**

If you have any concerns about the study, you should ask to speak to the study lead, Vicki James at ORS (contact information in letterhead) who will do her best to answer your questions. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can contact Janine Hale, Contract Manager at Welsh Government.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

Yes. All the information from the study will be treated as strictly confidential. If you join the study, some parts of the data will be looked at by authorised persons from the study team. They may also be looked at by representatives from Welsh Government to ensure the study is being carried out in a proper manner. All will have a duty of confidentiality to you as a participant and nothing that could reveal your identity will be disclosed. Direct quotes from your session may be used in the final report of the study but you will not be identified.

However, please note that in the event that a serious patient’s safety issue is identified or an issue that could put you, another person or child at risk during the
interview, this would need to be reported for the organisation to take action and this could, therefore, compromise your anonymity.

**What will happen to the results of the study?**

ORS will prepare a final report to include the findings from these interviews along with other project findings. This report will be published in winter 2015. You will not be identified in any report or publication.

**Who is organising and funding the study?**

The study has been organised, sponsored and funded by Welsh Government.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has also been approved by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Cwm Taf Health Board, Hywel Dda Health Board and Powys Teaching Health Board.

**If you would like to take part in this study, please register your interest by emailing or telephoning ORS:**

**Vicki.James@ors.org.uk**  01792 535330

**OR … by completing and returning the form below by FREEPOST**

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and for considering taking part in this study.

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**Within the last two years** I’ve been in hospital as a voluntary patient or detained short-term under Section 4, 5(2) or 5(4) of the 1983 Mental Health Act. Whilst there I received support from an Independent Mental Health Advocate (IMHA). I’m willing to share my experiences and opinions on the IMHA service in a confidential telephone interview. I understand that ORS will be in touch with me to arrange this.

Full Name .................................. Address (inc post code) ..............................................................
.................................................................................................................. Telephone Number ..............................................................

Email address..............................................................

Please return to: Vicki James, ORS, FREEPOST (SS1018), PO Box 530, Swansea, SA1 1ZL