

## **HOW CAN SOMEONE GET REFERRED TO AN IMHA?**

*Anyone can refer to an IMHA, but IMHA's must respond to requests to visit an eligible person if the request comes from the person themselves, their nearest relative, the responsible clinician or an approved mental health professional.*

*You can choose whether or not to work with an IMHA when they have visited.*

*Working with an IMHA does not affect the right to seek legal advice, or any entitlement there may be to legal aid. It does not prevent people from working with another advocate, but other advocates do not have the same rights and duties as an IMHA.*

Registered Charity Number 1070038  
Registered Company Number 3388017

## **CONFIDENTIALITY.**

*Everything you say to your advocate is kept confidential within Swindon Advocacy Movement. However, there are occasions when we may have to breach confidentiality and are obliged by law to notify other organisations and services. Our confidentiality policy will be explained in full at our first meeting with you.*



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IMHA Trifold Leaflet  
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# IMHA

## INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICE

### **What is an IMHA?**

*Changes to the Mental Health Act mean that there is a legal duty to provide IMHA advocates for eligible people from April 2009. An IMHA is a specialist mental health advocate who's purpose is to safeguard your Human Rights.*



## **WHO IS ENTITLED TO AN IMHA?**

*You will qualify for an IMHA if you are:*

- *Detained under the Mental Health Act section 2 or 3 for assessment and treatment (this does not include people detained on emergency short term sections, or detained in a place of safety).*
- *Conditionally discharged restricted patients.*
- *On supervised Community Treatment Orders or Guardianship orders.*
- *Informal/voluntary patients who are discussing the possibility of serious treatment (e.g Neuro surgery) for a 'mental disorder'. ( Or ECT if you are under 18 years of age).*

## **WHAT CAN AN IMHA DO?**

*An IMHA can work alongside you if you are a detained person and :*

- *Help you to get and understand information about Mental Health Legislation, any conditions and restrictions on you, and your rights.*
- *Help you to get information about and understand medical treatment (e.g Medication / therapies).*
- *Support you to take part in care planning.*
- *Support you to apply to prepare for and attend Hospital Managers Hearings, Mental Health Review Tribunals and to understand the decisions that are made.*
- *Discuss aftercare and access support and services.*
- *Raise concerns about your experiences of care and support.*

## **HOW WILL PATIENTS FIND OUT ABOUT OUR SERVICE?**

*There is a duty on hospital managers, responsible clinicians and social services in the case of Guardianship orders to :*

- *Inform you about the advocacy service.*
- *Take all practicable steps to ensure you understand what is available and how you can access help.*
- *There is also a duty for information to be given to your nearest relative if you are detained , unless you request otherwise.*