

SFHFMH19

Support engagement between an individual and their family



Overview

This standard covers the need to pay attention to the relationships between an individual and their family if such engagement is judged to be beneficial. There is a high degree of relationship breakdown in the families of people in forensic mental health care. One or more family members may have been victims of the individual. The status of relationships, the context of any breakdown and the potential for involving and working with family members need to be addressed. There are risks as well as benefits inherent in these relationships, which need to be understood as far as is possible and any language and cultural needs will also need to be addressed.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 consider what contact with the family is ongoing and the apparent benefits and risks of this
- P2 consider which family members are important to the individual, including those with whom contact may have been lost, whether any have been victims and the quality of the current relationships
- P3 take the initiative to discuss with the individual their thoughts and feelings about contact and about involving family members in their care, including issues of confidentiality
- P4 assess the risks arising from conflicts and/or tensions between family members, particularly differences relating to the individual's care or those that seem to have an impact on the individual's mental health
- P5 consider the individual's current and historical difficulties in the context of their significant family relationships, both those that are sustained and those that have broken down
- P6 assess and address the language and cultural needs before the visit occurs
- P7 if the individual agrees, arrange a meeting with the relatives and engage their help in supplying information about the individual's history
- P8 communicate only what the individual wants their relatives to know
- P9 decide what kind of professional contact with the relatives is possible
- P10 assess the type of engagement between individual and family for which the benefits justify the risks
- P11 agree with the individual the expectations they have of different family members and goals for the engagement (eg nature of future contact, changes in the relatives' behaviour and belief about the individual)
- P12 agree the preferred mode of re-engagement and ongoing contact with different family members (eg correspondence, visits)
- P13 enable the family to visit the individual while they are in hospital, if the individual and family wish
- P14 facilitate contact with the family if it is the continued wish of the individual

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 risk assessment
- K2 identifying benefits to individuals from different settings and treatments
- K3 the concept of 'child's best interest'
- K4 the risks to children from engagement with an estranged and ill parent
- K5 family dynamics
- K6 processes and affects of child abuse
- K7 mental health disorders and Learning Disability
- K8 drug, alcohol or substance misuse
- K9 vulnerable adult protection, protocols and best practice
- K10 child care law, child protection laws, protocols and best practice (eg Safeguarding Children recommendations)
- K11 governmental recommendations regarding children visiting individuals in secure settings
- K12 agencies in different parts of the country providing child protection risk assessments and preparing children for meeting individuals
- K13 current mental health legislation and regulations, including aftercare and restriction direction
- K14 observation
- K15 the religious beliefs of different cultures
- K16 the effects of culture and religious beliefs on individual communication styles
- K17 the different features services must have to meet people's gender, culture, language or other needs
- K18 the effects of different cultures and religions on care management
- K19 the principle of confidentiality and what information may be given to whom
- K20 how information obtained from individuals should be recorded and stored

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB4 Enablement to address health and wellbeing needs.

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