

# Referral Pathway: AMHP Service and EDT (Bedfordshire & Luton)



The AMHP Service & EDT work to **5 overarching principles**, in accordance with the MHA (1983, amended 2007)

- Least restrictive option & maximising independence
- Empowerment & involvement
- Respect & Dignity
- Purpose & effectiveness
- Efficiency & equity

### Escalation Process

In instances where the outcome of the AMHP/EDT referral is disputed, the final decision will be escalated to the AMHP/EDT Lead who has responsibility to make a joint decision with the referrer and CRHT Leads (if appropriate) regarding the way forward.

### Referrals for a Mental Health Act Assessment

- MHA referrals must be made in writing via the AMHP/EDT referral form, followed up with a phone call to the team.
- The referrer must have attempted to see the service user in the previous 24 hours; a current mental health assessment and all possible alternative (least restrictive) interventions must have been pursued before referral for a MHA assessment is requested.
- All referrals, where the service user is currently under the care of Mental Health Services must be accompanied by a medical recommendation.
- Include details of the nearest relative (if known) in the referral.

### Joint Working Processes

**CRHT, AMHP Service & EDT:** Working in partnership with both the Bedfordshire and Luton Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment Team, the AMHP Day Services have agreed joint working processes to support innovative solutions to promote the prevention and management of mental health crisis. Through co-location of these teams, the joint review and assessment of relevant referrals and management of escalation processes, the AMHP Day Service & EDT are able to seek safe alternatives to detention, support improved access to crisis services and contribute to joint crisis and risk management plans for service users.

**Joint assessments** - The referrer or other relevant professional is invited to be part of the MHAA to facilitate effective assessment.

AMHPs can offer **specialist advice and consultation** prior to assessment if you have concerns about the suitability of referring the service user to the team for assessment under the legal framework of the MHA. How?

- Call or email the relevant team.
- Clearly indicate your query as being a request for Advice and consultation– not referral for a mental health act assessment
- A Team member will call you back

