

Further information about the roles and responsibilities of MHOs under both Acts can be obtained from the Social Work Mental Health Team or Mental Welfare Commission website: [www.mwscot.org.uk/](http://www.mwscot.org.uk/)

### Complaints Procedure

If you are not satisfied with the service, please talk to the MHO or Mental Health Team Manager about your concerns.

Our Leaflet "Comments, suggestions and Complaints" is also available from SW HQ.

Alternatively contact can be made to the Mental Welfare Commission for independent advice and assistance. Contact details can be found on this leaflet.

### Other Formats and Translations

This leaflet can be provided in large print, Braille or on audio cassette and can be translated in other community languages. Tel: 0300 123 4510

本文件可按要求翻譯成中文，如有此需要，請電 0300 123 4510。

Gabhadh an sgrìobhainn seo cur gu Gàidhlig ma tha sin a dhìth oirbh. Cuir bh fòn gu 0300 123 4510

अनुबंध कान पर पर दस्तावेज हिंदी में भाषान्तरित किया जा सकता है। कृपया 0300 123 4510 पर फोन कीजिए।

ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0300 123 4510 ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

اس دستاویج کا اردو تراجم کرنے پر (اردو) زبان شہرہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ براہ مہربانی فون نمبر 0300 123 4510 پر رابطہ کریں۔

### Social Work Mental Health Team

Kirkintilloch Health and Care Centre  
10 Saramago Street, Kirkintilloch  
Glasgow, G66 3BF  
Mon-Fri: 09.00-17:00  
Telephone: 0141 232 8217

### Mental Health Tribunal

Tel: 01698 390000  
[www.mhtscotland.gov.uk](http://www.mhtscotland.gov.uk)

### Mental Welfare Commission

Tel: 0800 389 6809 or 0131 313 8777  
[www.mwscot.org.uk](http://www.mwscot.org.uk)

### Ceartas Advocacy Service

Tel: 0141 775 0433  
[www.ceartas.org.uk](http://www.ceartas.org.uk)

### Office of Public Guardian

Tel: 01324 678300  
[www.publicguardian-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.publicguardian-scotland.gov.uk)

### Glasgow and Partners Emergency Social Work Services

Tel: 0300 343 1505

# Mental health officers service

Social Work Mental Health Team



Mental Health Officers (MHOs) are trained mental health social workers who provide a statutory service. This means that the law states that East Dunbartonshire Council must provide this service throughout the year. MHOs are accountable to the local authority that employs them but their assessments are independent. They are also independent of health service staff. MHOs can provide support and advice to service users on a range of issues with the aim of promoting their recovery and maintaining their links with the community. They work in partnership and have links with a range of agencies and services including the Joint Learning Disabilities Team, Older People Team, Alcohol and Drug Service and Children and Families Social Work Team.

The main pieces of statutory legislation that MHOs work to are:

- Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003
- Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.

The Duty Mental Health Officer can be contacted on: 0141 232 8217.

### Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003

MHOs play an essential role in the Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and are required to work to the principles within this Act. Some examples of what MHOs do are:

1. Involvement in joint assessments with doctors to determine whether an individual needs compulsory care and treatment in hospital or at home in the community. As part of the process they will determine if alternative options can be put in place to prevent compulsory measures.
2. Requirement to help people who are detained under the Act to access independent advocacy services and to identify and nominate a 'Named Person, if they wish to.
3. Requirement to produce a Social Circumstances Report (SCR). The SCR is intended to provide a fuller picture of an individual's circumstances and a copy is sent to the Mental Welfare Commission and the Responsible Medical Officer (RMO).
4. The MHO on some occasions might be requested to write reports to court.
5. If an individual needs to have long term care and treatment, either in hospital or the community, the MHO might need to make an application for a Compulsory Treatment Order (CTO) and present it to a Mental Health Tribunal.
6. Request that the local authority carry out a needs assessment for either an adult or a child who are affected by mental health problems. The local authority then has a duty to undertake this assessment within a specified time period.

7. Involvement in reviewing treatment and progress and making joint decisions with doctors on whether the grounds for the CTO continue to be met.
8. They may be required to write reports for the court where individuals with mental health problems are involved in criminal proceedings.
9. In exceptional circumstances, they may need to apply for warrants in order to gain access to an individual in their own home and to arrange a medical examination.

### Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000

MHOs have a number of functions under the Adults with Incapacity Act, in particular a role in assessment and report writing in relation to applications for welfare guardianship and intervention orders.

The MHO duties under the Act include:

1. Offer information and advice regarding the Act to professionals, service users and families.
2. Contribute to AWI case conferences when appropriate.
3. Write specialist MHO reports to accompany applications and may attend court hearings.