

## Section 117 ("One-one-seven") After-care



### What is S.117 After-care?

S.117 After-care is the **free** help you get when you leave hospital if:

- You have been mentally **unwell**
- And**
- Been in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 ("**sectioned**")



It **begins** when you leave hospital.



Professionals should **start to plan** the help you need, as soon as you go into hospital.



### Will I get S.117 After-care?

You will get free after-care if you have:

- Been in hospital **for treatment** and you did not want it (**Section 3**)
- Been **moved from a prison** to a hospital (**Section 47** or **Section 48**)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Been told to go to hospital by a court (<b>Section 37</b> or <b>Section 45A</b>)</li> </ul>
	<p>You will <b>still</b> get free after-care if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You <b>stay</b> in hospital by <b>choice</b> (“voluntary patient”)</li> <li>• You are <b>discharged</b> from hospital <b>under</b> a Community Treatment Order or Guardianship</li> </ul>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>What help can I get?</b></p> <p>Your mental illness might make it harder for you to do some things for yourself. These are called your <b>“needs”</b>.</p> <p>You should be offered services that help you to deal with these problems. This is called <b>“meeting your needs”</b>.</p> <p>These services should also reduce the chances of you having to go <b>back into hospital</b>.</p> <p>When everyone agrees what help you need they will write this down. This is called a <b>“care plan”</b>.</p>

This might include:

- Where you live
- What treatment you will receive (e.g. medication or talking to a nurse)
- Things you can do during the day
- What help you will get with managing your money
- What help you will get to go to work or to study

You can choose **how** you want your needs met.

You can ask Social Services to give you the money for your support and you can arrange your own help.

This is called a **“direct payment”**.



## **Can I get free housing?**

A house or flat that you rent from a landlord is called your **“basic housing need”**.

This is **not** usually **free** but you might be entitled to housing benefit.

Housing where you can get extra care, support or supervision is called **“supported accommodation”**. You might have to **pay the rent** but your **care will be free**.

## Who will be involved in deciding my after-care?

1) Your “**Carer**” if you want them to be.

This is the person who looks after you.

2) Your “**Nearest Relative**” if you want them to be.

This is usually someone in your family but **the law** says who this is.

It is the job of your **Nearest Relative** to:

- Look out for you

**And**

- Make sure your wishes and choices are heard and understood

(Please see the information leaflet on “**Your Nearest Relative**”)

3) Your “**Care Coordinator**”.

This is the person who is your main point of contact and support from the Community Mental Health Team.

4) You can also get help to understand your care plan from an advocate



(Please see information leaflet on  
**"Independent Mental Health Advocate"**)

**5) Your local Social Services** in the area  
where you **lived before** hospital

**6) Your local NHS  
"Clinical Commissioning Group" (CCG).**  
This is a group of GPs who decide what  
health services people should be able to  
have.



### **When will my free after-care end?**

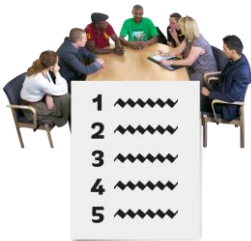
You must be given it for as long as you  
**need it?**

Your local Social Services **and** your local  
CCG must decide when you **no longer need**  
any after-care services.  
This is called **"discharge"**.

Professionals **shouldn't** discharge you from  
S.117 just because:

- You have been discharged from your  
**community mental health team**
- **Some time has passed** since you left  
hospital.
- You have gone back to hospital by  
**choice** ("voluntary patient")



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You have gone back to hospital for an assessment (<b>Section 2</b>)</li><li>• Your Community Treatment Order <b>ends</b></li><li>• You <b>don't want</b> after-care services</li></ul>
	<p><b>What happens when I am going to be discharged</b></p> <p>Professionals will hold a meeting and invite you to this.</p> <p>You will be able to bring an <b>advocate</b> with you.</p> <p>You will also be able to bring your <b>Carer and/or</b> your <b>Nearest Relative</b> if you want.</p>

## What if I am not happy about the help I am having?

You can complain about **anything** to do with your care and treatment

You can talk to:

- A member of staff
- A member of the complaints team at:

Kent County Council:

- **Adults 03000 410 410**
- **Children and Young People**

**03000 410 304**

