



Restraint in Mental Health & Medical Establishments Policy

Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this Policy is to outline the way in which requests to physically restrain patients within mental health (MH) and medical establishments, who are displaying aggressive or volatile behaviour and where staff request intervention to regain control must be dealt with. This includes physical restraint for the purpose of administering medication including sedation.

2. Policy Statement

- 2.1. Police should respond to calls from Mental Health (MH) and medical establishments when they relate to core police duties, which are:
 - To keep the Queen's peace
 - To protect life and property
 - To prevent and detect crime
- 2.2. Where there is no threat to life or limb, no crime has been committed or no real and imminent risk of a breach of the peace, Surrey Police will not attend a MH or medical establishment to assist in restraining patients who are receiving treatment or assessment within the premises, either as a compulsory or voluntary patient.
- 2.3. When control has been lost at a MH or medical establishment such that there is a serious risk to life or limb, police will attend to assist the staff to regain control.
- 2.4. Throughout any incident in a healthcare setting the responsibility for an individual's health remains with the staff of that establishment. This does not prevent or restrict the duties of police to respond to allegations of crime and investigate appropriately. Serious crime that necessitates the arrest of the offender will justify a swift response. Low level crime can be reported and investigated within appropriate timescales.
- 2.5. Under no ordinary circumstances will officers restrain a patient whilst MH or medical staff inject/give medication to that patient. Officers will only restrain a patient to preserve life, prevent a breach of peace or arrest a suspect (where proportionate and necessary).
- 2.6. Only in the most extreme cases can restraint for the purpose of medication/sedation be a consideration for Police. This must be clinically led at all times and be jointly agreed & discussed with all the risks identified with the senior clinical staff who must be present, together with a Police supervisor (who again will be present unless any delay would put life at risk).

Team: Response Command