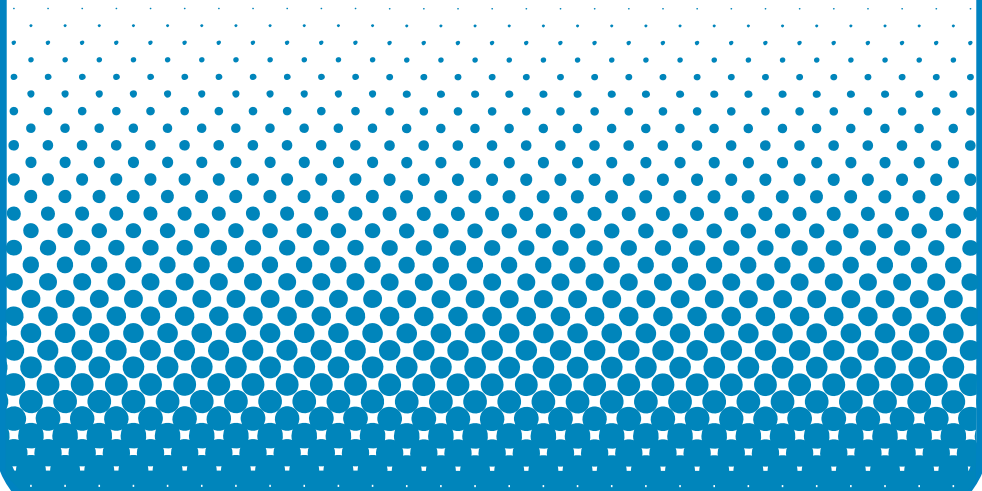




mental welfare
commission for scotland

Easy read

**Children &
young people
monitoring
2023-24**





The Law

There is a law in Scotland called the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 (Mental Health Act).



This law says how people can be treated if they have a mental disorder.

'Mental disorder' are the words used in the law to describe someone who has a:

- mental illness
- learning disability
- personality disorder



This law says that when children go to hospital because of their mental ill health they should be somewhere that is suitable for their age.



Children and young people's rights are also protected in a law called the UNCRC (Scotland) Act.



The UNCRC Act is for everyone who is under 18.

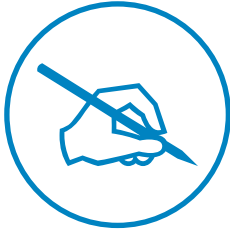


The UNCRC Act says that healthcare for children and young people should be as good as possible.



What we do

We work to make sure that the children and young people who are protected by the Mental Health Act and the UNCRC Act are being looked after.



One way we do this is by writing a report every year.

This report is called a 'monitoring report'.



We write the report by looking at information from paperwork that is sent to us.



In Scotland, there are three hospitals for young people aged between 12-18 years who have mental ill health:

- Skye House in Glasgow
- The Melville Young People's Mental Health Unit in Edinburgh
- Dudhope House in Dundee



There is also the National Child Inpatient Unit in Glasgow. This ward has six beds for children under 12 years old with mental ill health.



When children and young people need to stay in hospital for their mental ill health, they should be somewhere suitable for their age.



Sometimes this is not possible, and children and young people might stay on adult wards. This is called a non-specialist ward.



A non-specialist ward is not designed for children or young people.

Sometimes it can be okay for a young person to stay on a non-specialist ward but this should only happen rarely.

Most young people should be cared for in a place designed for their age, not for adults.



This year's report

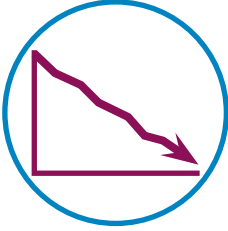
This report shows what happened during 2023-24.

It also shows what has happened over the last year and compares it to the years before.



This report tells us:

- how many children and young people are admitted to non-specialist wards because of their mental ill health
- how long children and young people stay in hospital, in non-specialist wards.



In 2023-24 we found that:

- 59 children and young people were admitted to non-specialist wards.

This is less than last year. In 2022-23, it was 66 children and young people.

**7
days**

- Most children and young people stayed in non-specialist wards in hospital less than a week.



- Six children and young people stayed in hospital for over two months. This is a long time for someone to stay in a place that is designed for adults.

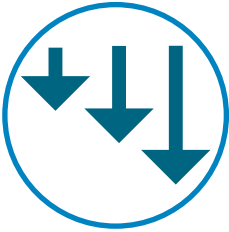


What happens next

We send the report to the Scottish Government, and health boards and councils in Scotland.



It is good that fewer children and young people are admitted to non-specialist wards each year.



In the future we would like to see:

- fewer children and young people admitted to non-specialist wards
- children and young people staying on non-specialist wards for shorter amounts of time
- the care given to children and young people in non-specialist wards be more suited to their needs



What does the Mental Welfare Commission do?

It is the Mental Welfare Commission's job to make sure that the law is used properly to look after people.

We make sure people's rights are protected.

The Commission is independent.

This means it does not work for another organisation.



We give advice to the Scottish Parliament about making things better for people with mental health problems, learning disabilities, dementia and other related conditions.



We visit people in hospitals, care homes and at home to make sure their rights are being respected and they are getting proper care and treatment.



If we think someone is not getting the right care and treatment we can look into it. Most of the time we do this by talking or writing to people.



Sometimes if things have gone badly wrong we look into it to make sure things change and to stop it happening again.



We use what we learn to help services and government policies to change and be better.



We give advice on the laws that affect people with mental health problems, learning disabilities, dementia and other related conditions.



We check how services use the laws.

We tell people what is working well.

We have guidance to help professionals, people who use services, families and carers.



Get in touch with us

You can talk to us confidentially.

This means we will not tell anyone what you have said:

- unless we are worried about your safety or the safety of other people.
- unless we have asked you.



Call Freephone:

0800 389 6809

email:

mwc.enquiries@nhs.scot



Write to:

Mental Welfare Commission
for Scotland,
Thistle House,
91 Haymarket Terrace,
Edinburgh EH12 5HE



Do you use British Sign
Language?

You can use the
ContactScotland online
interpreting service.



You can find out more
about the Mental Welfare
Commission and our work at:
www.mwcscot.org.uk