

Mental Health Services S75 Agreement:

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee 15th
of September 2025



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

What is a s75 Agreement?

A Section 75 (s75) agreement is made between local authorities and NHS bodies and can include arrangements for pooling resources and delegating certain NHS and local authority health-related functions to the other partners.

Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) represent one of the most significant structural reforms to the NHS in the past decade. With their aim of unifying health strategy across once fragmented regional health bodies, they hope to improve the efficiency, quality and delivery of healthcare services.

The s75 agreement serves as a significant tool in achieving the ICS ambition to transform adults and older adults community mental health services and reduce health inequalities.

This agreement contributes to the improvement in mental health and wellbeing and should result in easier access to a more responsive mental health service, in line with the strategic intent of other initiatives such as the Brighton & Hove Joint Health & Well Being Strategy and the Sussex Health & Care Partnership Shared Delivery Plan.

What does a s75 Agreement mean for Brighton and Hove?

The s75 agreement between Brighton and Hove City Council and Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust has been in place for over twenty-three years and has meant Social Care staff have been co-located within the Trust to deliver its statutory duties.

This way of working in close partnership has been valued by both organisations, and by those that use our services, and the review of this agreement seeks to maintain and strengthen this collaborative way of working.

The agreement demonstrates the ongoing commitment of the Trust & the Council to work in partnership, to deliver an integrated service for the population of Brighton & Hove.

Aims and Objectives – Service Delivery

Improve access to services and secure better outcomes for service users through a jointly delivered service model.

Provide an integrated, responsive, and timely approach to the assessment, treatment and care for service services reflective of their mental health and social care needs.

Promote a service that is focused on recovery, independence, individual need, and outcomes.

Provide a seamless interface for users and carers.

Provide appropriate support, advice and services in accordance with assessed need.

Aims and Objectives – Statutory Functions and Performance

Deliver an integrated service that is compliant in its delivery of statutory duties to service users and their carers.

Provide sufficient availability of all staff to ensure delivery of key functions and statutory duties, including Approved Mental Health Professionals.

Robust pathways for the allocation of social care work.

Ensure the Council's Director of Adult Social Services' statutory duties are discharged in accordance with the Department of Health's Guidance.

Fulfil national and local policy objectives.

Aims and Objectives – Management of BHCC staff

Managers within the Trust are fully conversant with the statutory duties that their teams fulfil, and Council employed staff are responsible for providing.

Managers have sufficient systems in place to monitor the caseloads of Council employed staff, enabling staff to prioritise the statutory functions aligned with their role and contracted duties.

Ensure the staff working within the Services are provided with the necessary equipment enabling them to work within the systems of both organisations.

Ensure that Council staff are accommodated within Trust sites where the Services are located.

Schedules

Within the s75 agreement there are a 11 schedules that underpin the operational aspects of the joint working arrangements.

These schedules include:

Schedule 1 - Introduction & Aims and Objectives

Schedule 2 – Local Performance Indicators

Schedule 3 – Premises and Support Services

Schedule 4 – Terms of Reference for the Joint Management Group

Schedule 5 – Financial Contributions

Schedule 6 – Staff Posts Allocated to the Arrangements

Schedule 7 - Joint Secondment Agreement

Schedule 8 – Joint HR Protocol for the Management of Staff

Schedule 9 – Joint Management of Change and Redundancy Policy

Schedule 10 – Safe & Effective Practice

Schedule 11 – Terms of Reference for the Joint Operational Group

Management Structure

Over the past three years, Brighton and Hove City Council have increased the management resource relating to this agreement so that the Council have greater oversight of statutory duties and our staff.

This s75 Agreement is overseen by a Brighton and Hove City Council General Manager, who is co-located with Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

There are three BHCC Operational Managers responsible for overseeing the delivery of statutory duties within Adult Services, Older Adults Services, Specialist Mental Health, and the DoLS Service. Additionally, there is a Service Manager who manages the Approved Mental Health Practitioner Team.

The BHCC Managers work collaboratively with SPFT Acute, Community, and Urgent Care Managers to ensure the effective delivery of statutory duties within these settings.

Challenges

Governance and Accountability – ambiguity in responsibility boundaries.

Financial and Budgetary Issues – complexity in the staff recharging processes.

Dependence on Local Leadership – the success of s75 agreements often relies on strong personal relationships and effective leadership.

Development of Neighbourhood Mental Health Teams – BHCC management and staffing resources will need to be reorganised to effectively support the development of NMHTs.

Demand – increasing requirements for statutory work is leading to a growing waiting list, which poses a risk to Brighton and Hove City Council.

Benefits

Joined-up care - s75 agreements enable seamless coordination between health and social care, reducing duplication and fragmentation.

Shared goals - partners can align priorities and work toward common outcomes for patients and service users.

Better value for money - joint planning can lead to cost savings and more targeted investment in prevention and early intervention.

Person-centred care - services are designed around the needs of individuals rather than organisational boundaries.

Continuity of care - patients experience smoother transitions between services, especially important for those with complex or long-term mental health conditions.

Supports national policy – s75 align with government ambitions to deliver more integrated, community-based care.

Proposal

The current s75 agreement is scheduled for renewal in October 2025, and it is proposed that this agreement be extended for an additional three years.

Annual reviews of the schedules are conducted by SPFT and BHCC to ensure they accurately reflect organisational changes.

The increasing demands placed on both SPFT and BHCC are regularly assessed, with appropriate actions taken to address them.

Staffing recharges are reviewed periodically, and future funding for positions is considered when vacancies arise.

