An introduction to the Commission
History

• Born in 1960, replacing general Board of Control

• Duties extended by the 1984 MHA and the Adults with Incapacity Act

• Major new responsibilities under the new Mental health Act
Commission’s role under the new Act

- Monitoring its operation
- Promoting best practice, including the principles
- Specific duties to visit, investigate, give advice, publish etc
- Other duties around safeguards
Our mission statement

- Independent organisation
- Safeguarding role
- Working for people with all types of mental disorder
- Inclusive membership reflect the breadth of mental health stakeholders
Strategic objectives

• Help service users get the best care and treatment

• Help service providers recognise their duties and responsibilities

• Independent experts in applying best legal and ethical practice to care and treatment
Key activities

• Visiting
• Monitoring the operation of legislation
• Investigations and inquiries
• Advice and promotion of best practice
• Influencing and challenging service providers
We visit…

• People subject to compulsory orders
• People subject to Guardianship
• People in hospital
• People in prisons and YOIs
• Community facilities
Unannounced visits

Nobody expects the Mental Welfare Commission!
Why do we visit people?

• Allow individuals to raise concerns
• Inspect facilities (physical facilities, amenities, availability of care and treatment)
• Identify good practice and challenge practice that needs to be improved
• Raise matters of concern with care staff and managers
Regular monitoring

- Quarterly statistics (main numbers of orders, point prevalence)
- Annual report (breakdown of orders, age/sex/ethnicity, geography etc)
- Special reports
Our initial monitoring priorities

- Emergency detention
- Care of young people
- Advance statement overrides
- Compulsory treatment in the community
- Care plans
INVESTIGATIONS & INQUIRIES

- Unlawful detention
- Ill-treatment, neglect, deficiency in care
- Loss or damage to property
- Living alone and unable to look after self

…..We may carry out formal inquiries with court-style powers (although we never have)
Advice and promotion of best practice

- Telephone advice service
- Good practice guides
- Principles into practice
- Agents of culture change