

SURREY POLICE - PAPER FOR PCC MONTHLY MANAGEMENT MEETING

Policing Mental Health

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on the Surrey Police response to mental health, in particular the development of a Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat for Surrey, and the Force response to the Mental Health Peer Review conducted by the Metropolitan Police Service.

2. Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat

2.1. Following the launch of the National Crisis Care Concordat in February 2014 there has now been key progress in developing a local declaration in Surrey. A Surrey Emergency Services workshop was held on 23rd May 2014; the outcomes were presented to the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2014, and four key recommendations were accepted:

- All public sector agencies sign up to the revised Surrey Crisis Concordat and develop a shared action plan that will commit to reducing the use of police stations as places of safety.
- Focus on designing crisis services that have a single point of access and involve the 3rd sector as key partners in the provision of a whole systems service response.
- Set up a Mental Health Crisis Care Delivery Group that meets monthly to examine and implement the action plan of the National Concordat, tailored to the landscape of Surrey.
- Ensure that the Mental Health Crisis Care Delivery Group is supported and accountable to the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Partnership Board, delivering outcomes in accordance with the agreed action plan.

2.2. The new Mental Health Crisis Care Delivery Group is chaired by the Associate Director of the Commissioning, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group Collaborative; it is attended by Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Stuart Cundy. A draft of the Concordat Action Plan for Surrey has been produced, which has identified a number of quick wins that could be achieved before a progress update is presented to the September Health and Wellbeing Board.

2.3. Some key areas of concern for Surrey Police include:

Use of Police Custody as a Place of Safety:

- Between 1st April 2014 & 30th June 2014 there have been 143 detentions under s136 Mental Health Act. 13 (9%) of these detainees were taken to police custody, and in 7 cases this was due to the lack of assessment suites.
- A high volume of detentions on 21st June (8 cases) highlights the need to have a

contingency plan for when the assessment suites are full and / or there are a high number of detentions.

- In recent months an additional assessment suite has been made available in the county.

Acute Care:

- Surrey Hospitals Accident and Emergency Departments are not used as places of safety and there are often tensions between the assessment and treatment of those in mental health crisis who also require medical treatment, particularly if they may also be violent.
- Following a meeting attended by the Deputy PCC, Surrey Police and Hospital Chief Executives, local hospitals have agreed to develop stronger partnership working with Surrey Police. The first meeting to develop joint protocols was held on 1st July and attended by Temporary ACC Matt Twist.

Transportation:

- There remain practical difficulties with the transportation of those in mental health crisis, with the police often being the default transportation provider. This is not in accordance with the National Concordat, but there is often little alternative.
- A protocol with South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) has been in development for some time prior to the publication of the National Concordat. The new protocol awaits formal sign off, but does not meet the requirements of the Concordat. However, it is progress and will provide a better level of service and will be signed as an interim protocol pending implementation of the Surrey Concordat Action Plan.

2.4. A joint Transformation Challenge bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government has been submitted by Surrey County Council, Surrey Police, Surrey and Borders Partnership Trust (SABP) and Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups. The bid for £1.425m is to help develop mental health services and deliver the Concordat Action Plan.

3. Surrey Police Mental Health Peer Review

3.1. At the request of the Chief Constable, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) conducted a peer review of Surrey Police mental health systems and processes in April 2014. The review was an independent assessment of Surrey Police's response to mental health and made observations and recommendations to assist Surrey Police develop its processes and responses where mental health is, or is believed to be, a key element in any policing situation.

3.2. The peer review acknowledged that Surrey Police is by no means alone in experiencing difficulty in the broad area of policing mental health. Nationally and in the MPS, Coroners' findings and Independent Police Complaints Commission reports into death following police contact specifically cite difficulties faced by police in recognising and addressing health deterioration, especially consequent of the application of force or restraint in mental ill health cases. Those cases often include the use of force prior to transport in police vehicles, during transportation or upon arrival at police custody suites - and in some cases at health-based places of safety.

- 3.3. Restraint, transportation and use of police custody suites for those who are in crisis all present risk to the welfare of the detained person, personal risk to officers if they fail to recognise the crisis and its implications, and risk to the confidence of the public as a result of police action. These circumstances too often arise as a result of the absence of alternative provision by health providers - particularly so in the case of transportation, use of custody and restraint in the health environment.
- 3.4. The report acknowledged that Surrey Police staff consistently strive to do the right thing, but it identified a number of recommendations that require action. Many of the findings and associated recommendations directly relate to the Crisis Care Concordat and associated action plan.
- 3.5. Many of the peer review recommendations will be implemented through Surrey Police direct partnership working with SABP, and a number of short term actions have been agreed. To progress this ACC Cundy has met with the Director of Mental Health and Social Care Services from SABP and the peer review has been tabled at the Trust's Executive Board.
- 3.6. Within Surrey Police the delivery of the action plan to improve the policing of mental health will be governed through the Surrey Police Mental Health Steering Group, chaired by T/ACC Matt Twist.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. Surrey Police is by no means alone in experiencing difficulty in the broad area of policing and mental health. The publication of the National Crisis Care Concordat and the focus of the Chief Constable on how policing interacts with mental health has been critical in Surrey Police making progress with partners.
- 4.2. The peer review found that police officers and staff in all agencies have a strong desire to improve service delivery and showed real concern and compassion for the plight of those suffering mental health crises, who so often are reliant on systems which fail to meet their needs.
- 4.3. Through the Force internal action plan and the multi-agency Crisis Care Concordat delivery plan, Surrey Police will improve the service it delivers to those most in need of care and support from mental health, health and social care services.