

Our priority

We have seen some great successes in how people with mental health issues are treated and supported within West Yorkshire whether they are victims or suspected perpetrators of a crime. As a result the number of people being detained in police cells inappropriately has come down significantly. However more needs to be done. Through the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum we will make sure that partners are working together to collectively support people with mental health issues who find themselves in the criminal justice system or at risk of suicide and look for opportunities to intervene at the earliest stage.

How we are going to deliver

Our overall aim is to improve our understanding of issues around mental health, community safety and the criminal justice system, and put in place better systems to deal with those issues. To achieve this the PCC has set up the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum which started meeting in June 2015. It brings together the relevant stakeholders from the criminal justice system, NHS, the other emergency services and the third sector. Its initial priority was to ensure that the Police worked with the NHS to ensure an appropriate response to those individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. This has been achieved by developing triage arrangements and in particular locating mental health professionals in some Police control rooms. The Partnership also was successful in bidding for additional funding to expand health based places of safety. These capital schemes will be delivered over the next 15 months and should be in place by April 2018. The Forum has recently reviewed the work done so far and what further work is needed to move forward. This includes:

- Supporting work being undertaken which engages with service users, learns from their experiences and listens to the sometimes uncomfortable messages they have for us. **Listening to people**
- Analyse the data available from a wide range of agencies including the police, NHS and local concordat groups, paying particular attention to supporting vulnerable people. **Understanding Our Communities.**
- Further develop the collaborative work we are doing together as a Partnership (for example through the West Yorkshire Urgent and Emergency Care Vanguard and Liaison and Diversion Schemes), in particular mainstreaming innovation so it is embedded in our day to day work. **Working Together**
- Tackle some of the underlying reasons why people find it hard to access mental health services, whether that is lack of awareness, the continuing stigma associated with mental health or lack of suitable provision. **Preventing and intervening earlier**
- Build strategies that take account of the challenges facing the health, criminal justice and third sector, in particular the constraints on funding and conflicting priorities. **Improving our services**
- Maximise best use of resources through co-ordinating our efforts and bidding in a co-ordinated way to bring additional funding to West Yorkshire as and when these opportunities arise. **Providing resources**

How we will know whether we have delivered

We will measure our progress against this priority through our Community Outcome Meetings and the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum, through which an in depth report into mental health will present the progress of the OPCC, West Yorkshire Police, and relevant partners against the objectives above. It will draw on a range of information available including HMIC inspection reports, national guidance, and statistical indicators including those listed below. In addition to this, we will monitor performance around a number of relevant indicators through our Delivery Quarterly process such as **safeguarding vulnerable people and making criminal justice work.**

- The numbers of people experiencing a mental health crisis being taken to a police cell will reduce
- The number of places in health based places of safety including those appropriate for children and young people will increase.