



COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

Tuesday 20th February 2018

PRESENT

Mark Burns-Williamson – West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Jayne Sykes – Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Dee Collins – Chief Constable (CC)

Angela Williams – Assistant Chief Constable (ACC)

Andy Battle – Assistant Chief Constable (ACC)

APOLOGIES

John Robins – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)

ALSO PRESENT

Sharon Waugh – Engagement Manager

Celeste Armitage - Engagement Officer

Paul Cumming – Sergeant

Pamela Quinn – Sergeant

David Smith – Victims and Witnesses Advisor

4. Mental Health Update

The PCC thanked colleagues for the update report which outlined the West Yorkshire Police (WYP) response which followed significant new mental Health legislation which had become statute since the last update. He spoke about the context of mental health, the work of the quarterly Mental Health Forum and initiatives such as mental health nurses in Control rooms. The PCC also commented that he was pleased to see that no-one had been taken into police custody under Section 136 since the introduction of the new legislation on 11 December 2017.

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

The PCC asked about the main risks to manage in the coming months?

The Chief Constable(CC) explained that WYP often dealt with people with very complex needs for example those with mental health issues coupled with drink and/or drugs issues, she said that officers relied heavily on the view of health professionals to support them. ACC Battle added that risks going forward were understanding primacy, he added that officers were all first aid trained but

that this did not cover the spectrum of mental health issues. He also said that one of the unintended outcomes was that officers were being tied up for longer periods of time than expected. He did however recognise the overall context which was the legislation was still fairly new.

The Chief Executive commented on the low figures recoded in the section 136 data, she asked if there was a possibility that this was due to officers being reluctant to make an arrest.

ACC Battle gave reassurance that officers were not hesitant and would act, however he highlighted the officers would speak to health professionals prior to not making a decision to arrest. The Chief Constable confirmed that police officers needed to rely on expertise from medical professionals.

The PCC asked if other vehicles could be made available, not strictly ambulances but also triage vehicles.

Action – Ch. Supt Minton be asked to raise the transport issue for discussion with appropriate strategic partners at his next meeting.

The PCC said that Central Government had provided additional capital funding for health based places of safety but had not matched this with any revenue, he asked what the challenges were for the Police and asked if Health Based Places of Safety (HBOS) were of a consistent standard across West Yorkshire, especially for children and young people under 18.

ACC Battle confirmed there was good access to HBOS as there had been some applied capital funding, however this was not the case in respect of children where provision was limited both in terms of support and availability. The PCC added that he was keen to work with WYP colleagues and the Mental Health Forum to get a more systematic approach.

The Chief Constable also commented that this was an issue for the Care Quality Commission Inspection process.

The PCC commented that the report mentioned the role of the Big Lottery which had funded West Yorkshire Finding Independence Programme, a consortium of voluntary organisations supporting people with complex needs, he asked what risks would arise from the Big Lottery funding for this programme ending in 2020.

Sheffield Hallam University were undertaking research to show that the consortium had resulted in a decrease in calls and Anti-Social Behaviour, it was felt there would be a significant impact to both Safeguarding and Neighbourhood Policing when the funding stopped, there was a need to look at the funding stream collectively.

Finally, the PCC asked what scope was there for the police to support the development of better prevention and early intervention strategies around mental health, to avoid the need to deal with crisis situations.

ACC Battle stated that there was lots of scope to work with partners and opportunities for the police to input into early help, neighbourhood policing working with district health professionals could do more to work with the most vulnerable and those with complex needs, he spoke about current work which had focussed on 10 of the most complex users. The Chief Constable added that a lot more needed to be done to improve information sharing, especially around the need for urgent mental health consideration.