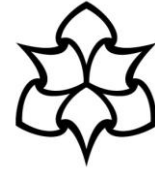




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**WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE**

EMBEDDING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT WITHIN DISTRICT POLICE STATIONS

N8 Police Research Partnership Small Grant 2019/20

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**POLICING
RESEARCH
PARTNERSHIP**



Overview

- Background to service (Esther)
- Background to research project (Nathan)
- Methodology (Kim)
- Findings (Kim)
- Implications (Esther)
- Questions (All)



Background to service

- West Yorkshire Police developed an operating model whereby Mental Health Nurses from local MH teams were recruited and deployed within police stations to work alongside the officers to help deal with incoming calls that relate to MH or suicide.
- The service differed slightly in each district
- Overarching feature: **MH expertise was on hand** at peak times



Hub Nurse Role

- Involved in mental health related logs
- Situations where individuals call in, threatening suicide or displaying behaviour considered to be connected to mental health issues
- Provide officers with guidance and support
- Sharing of need to know information
- Supporting individual needs assessment
- Generally provide assistance and information/knowledge to the Hub



Possible Outcomes

- Onward referral to secondary services:
 - Sign post to non-statutory agencies.
 - Sign post to drug and alcohol services.
 - Sign post to primary care.
- Admission to Intensive Home Based Treatment.
- Admission to mental health in patient services.
- Advise attendance to A&E for medical attention.
- Request for Mental Health Act Assessment.



Project beginnings

- Overarching consensus within WYP and MH colleagues was that this was an excellent partnership model.
- The challenge from the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the 'MH COP' (Michael Brown) at the College of Policing was to have the model academically evaluated through the N8 Partnership.



The research project

- Three motivations:
 1. To research an innovative response to legislative requirement to consult medical professionals before detaining under s.136 of the Mental Health Act;
 2. To offer evaluation capacity to West Yorkshire Police and the local NHS providers;
 3. To promote collaboration among those delivering or evaluating diverse models of MH triage and provision.
- Three aims:
 1. To develop an evaluation framework through stakeholder workshops; ✓
 2. To undertake an initial evaluation in two districts; ?
 3. Create a national network of lead officers, MH professionals and academics. ✗



Methodology

- Shadowing Hub Nurses
- Interviews
 - Frontline officers
 - Senior officers
 - Hub Nurses
 - Other healthcare staff
- Data Collection
 - 6 months of Hub Nurse enriched data
 - 6 x monthly police logs where Hub Nurse not/on duty



Findings (1)

1. Embedding mental health nurses uniformly perceived to have resulted in better informed, and therefore more effective responses to individuals in mental distress.
2. By reviewing police logs, mental health nurses were able to ensure a response from the most appropriate professional, including mental health or social work support, and therefore reduce inappropriate police intervention.



Findings (2)

3. Subsequent benefits to broader policing and health services provision include more efficient use of police resources, reduced burden on health services (particularly A&E), and the impact of stronger awareness and understanding of mental health on other police interactions with the public.
4. Perceived the number of individuals in mental distress being arrested or detained on a s.136 had reduced, though we have been unable to access data to confirm this



Findings (3)

5. Risk management



Individual v collective responsibility



Impact

- Independent validation of all the hard work
- Hub Nurses deserve huge congratulations
- Challenging but valuable partnership
- Support continued funding and future developments

Moving forward

- A mobile model
- Access to services for children and young people



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Questions?

Brief report now available here:

<https://n8prp.org.uk/embedding-mental-health-support-within-district-police-stations/>



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