



How mental health impacts on Policing

Assistant Chief Constable Simon Torr
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"Mental Health is everybody's business" – but why is it police business?....

- More likely to be a victim of crime than general population
- 90% of offenders in prison have mental health issues
- Largest cause of illness for our staff is stress
- Powers of detention under section 136 of the Mental Health Act



Demand on Policing in 2013/14



- 12,000 incidents with a mental health qualifier, likely to increase to 13,500 in 2014
- 27% increase in concerns for safety and requests for safe/well check from 777 to 989
- 5419 detainees *self declared* as having mental health problems
- 1082 section 136 MHA, of which 321 brought to a custody suite



Section 136 Mental Health Act

"if a constable finds in a place to which the public have access a person who appears to him to be suffering from mental disorder and to be in immediate need of care or control, the constable may, if he thinks it necessary to do so in the interests of that person or for the protection of other persons, remove that person to a place of safety"

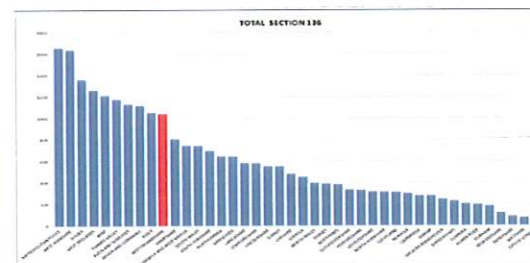


Exceptional Circumstances

- A police cell should only be used in exceptional circumstances
- A third is NOT exceptional circumstances



National figures for section 136 detentions 2013



A show of hands please!

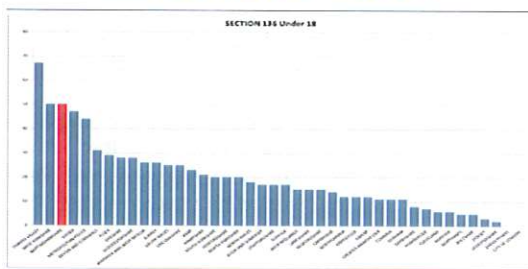
If your child was in need of hospital treatment for a **physical illness** would you be happy for him/her to be sent to a police cell instead of a hospital?



So why is it acceptable with mental illness?



Number of section 136 – under 18's



Triage cars



- 824 incidents attended
- 50 section 136 MHA
- 9 to custody suites
- 27% decrease overall



Partnership Prevent Strategy

Get it right first time through prevention and early intervention

Desired outcomes:

- Safer and stronger communities
- Healthier communities
- Improved education and prospects
- Improved efficiency
- Better services
- Reduced demand for all service

Mental health is one of 9 key work streams



Principles

- Pooled resources
- Better data sharing
- Workforce and working practice development
- Joined up working
- Building on existing partnership work streams
- Better use of problem solving
- Medium to long term solutions
- A less risk averse attitude

What have we done so far around mental health....?



Repeat Callers



- Do you know who your repeat callers are?
- Do you know the cost to your organisations?
- How could you reduce your demand, while improving service to the public?



Case Study from 2013

- 249 calls to the police
- 173 incidents attended
- 20 Section 136 MHA
- 8 to custody
- £16,000 cost to Force

- A true story!

A total of 98 hours in police custody for being ill



Armed Forces Veterans



- 3.5%, 10% or more of prison population??
- Violent and sexual crimes
- Alcohol issues
- Mental health issues

Early intervention in custody suites in partnership with the trauma centre and vets charities



Criminal Justice Liaison

- CPNs in custody suites
- Mansfield Pilot
- Rollout 2015 across whole county
- IOM cohort



Criminal Justice Liaison



- 90% of prison population have mental health issues
- 20% of offenders commit 80% of all crime
- Integrated Offender Management cohort mental health needs?



"The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it."

Michelangelo



Lets be ambitious!

- No children on a section 136 should be held in a police cell
- Minimise the use of police cells for adults on a section 136
- Explore more opportunities for early intervention

Let's get it right first time, every time.



Mental Health Concordat – IS everybody's business

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