



2012-13 Quarter One (Q1) Stakeholder Report

Welcome to the first edition of the Police Custody Mental Health Diversion project Stakeholder update report. This pilot project is due to last for two years and is one of a range of similar schemes taking part in the National Diversion Programme across England, which have been funded by Offender Health at the Department of Health.

National Context

Collectively, the National Diversion Programme network will be responsible for informing a diversion implementation plan which will include:

- Gathering and sharing of learning, resulting in guidance on good practice in commissioning and provision of diversion services
- Development of quality standards and outcomes

- A workforce development and training plan

One of the key outcomes of the National Diversion Programme is a continuation of the commitment made by Government in response to Lord Bradley's report, as follows:

"By November 2014, we expect to see the overall goal of police and court liaison services in place."

Local Arrangements

North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust (NSCHT), in partnership with Staffordshire Police have been successful in securing funding to provide mental health assessment, liaison and diversion in the Northern Area Custody Facility (NACF) in Stoke on Trent for 2012-13 and 2013-14. The project will be managed as an extension of a court assessment scheme already in existence within North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, provided by the Criminal Justice Mental Health Team (CJMHT).

As part of the police custody mental health diversion project the CJMHT have recruited two new Community Psychiatric Nurses (CPN's). Joanne Bettison has joined the team from South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust and Gavin Hicks has moved from his previous post at the Harplands hospital.

Staffordshire Police have been very supportive in providing the mental health team with an allocated office within the NACF. This base provides the team with a place to undertake their paperwork and access the NHS IT system via a desktop computer.

Launch

The project got off to a flying start, going 'live' two weeks earlier than originally planned on 18th June 2012, with nursing staff providing mental health assessments within the NACF.

The project launch attracted considerable local and even national interest! Various members of CJMHT and police staff were interviewed by the media. Articles appeared in local

newspapers and radio, the project was included on Radio 4's 'You and Yours' programme as an example of best practice.

You can read the article published in The Sentinel via their website www.thisisstaffordshire.co.uk and search for the story or follow this direct link: [Mental illness experts based in police cells](#).

Progress so far!

At the end of Q1, the majority of the progress has been made in the preparation phase of the project, some of the achievements include:

- ✓ Successful recruitment and induction of 2WTE CPN's to conduct mental health assessments in police custody
- ✓ Inducting the CPN's into the custody environment to ensure safe and secure practice within NACF
- ✓ Installing the NHS IT system within NACF
- ✓ Devising a mental health assessment tool fit for use in police custody
- ✓ Establishing service user focus groups and feedback mechanisms
- ✓ Establishing a Mental Health Diversion project management group and forming links within existing reporting and

governance structures within Staffordshire Police and local Health and Social Care

- ✓ Gathering baseline data to measure the projects performance

Although the project has only been running since 18th June 2012, the early activity undertaken by the team tends to suggest some positive outcomes, these include:

- ✓ Referrals have increased week by week. From 18th – 30th June 2012 53 detainees were assessed by the mental health team
- ✓ Although the main referrers are Custody Sergeants, as the profile of the scheme has increased, referrals have also been generated by arresting officers, solicitors and appropriate adults.

- ✓ We have already used a full spectrum of interventions, including admission to hospital under the Mental Health Act, referrals to Forensic Services, liaison with prison in-reach, referrals to crisis, Community Mental Health Teams, MIND, advice to GP's to name but a few.
- ✓ Service user feedback has been a key part of this project the results for June were excellent:
 - 93% of detainees who responded were either Very Satisfied (83%, n=24) or Satisfied (10%, n=3)
 - 100% of detainees who responded felt that the service either met (34%, n=10) or exceeded (66%, n=19) their expectations of a mental health service in custody
- 100% of detainees felt that the mental health professional they saw were either very (83%, n=24) or somewhat (17%, n= 5) approachable and supportive.
- Of those detainees referred, 64% completed feedback questionnaires
- ✓ The average time from referral to assessment was 37 minutes. The range was from 0 (shortest wait time) and 2 hours (longest wait time)
- ✓ Section 136 continues to provide challenges to the Police and North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust. The presence of the mental health nurses in the pilot scheme has helped smooth the process for Section 136 detainees where the designated Place of Safety is Police Custody.

In Summary

It's early days, but so far it's very positive. We have had lots of referrals, good assessments and meaningful interventions. The positive working relationships in police custody are developing and service user's feedback is positive.

In Quarter 2 we hope to continue to receive the high number of referrals and continue to collect evidence to demonstrate the effectiveness of the pilot.

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