

12th January 2022

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to

A joint thematic inspection of the criminal justice journey for individuals with mental health needs and disorders – November 2021

It is encouraging to read the recognition of some of policing's progress since Lord Bradley's review in 2009. I am confident that Dyfed-Powys Police is making every effort to continue this progress to support those living with mental health conditions, whether they be suspects, victims or in a time of acute need.

Some of the most notable recent developments involving Dyfed-Powys Police include:

- The secondment of a senior mental health decision maker into the Dyfed-Powys Police Vulnerability Hub.
- St John Ambulance mental health transport service pilot from April 2021 (Based at West Wales General Hospital).
- Pembrokeshire Twilight Sanctuary delivered by MIND Cymru in Haverfordwest with similar daytime provision open in Pembroke Dock.
- Work with Welsh Government and partners on the Beyond the Call Welsh Government report recommendations.
- Welsh Government co-ordinated the Welsh Chief Officer Group response to the Mental Health Act reform consultation.
- The introduction of an online form and force-level improvements to the Section 136 Mental Health Act process.
- A pilot NHS 111 mental health service for officers / staff attending addresses or encountering people who are of concern but not currently suitable / eligible for section 136 Mental Health Act detention.
- The development of a mental health demand dashboard which allows the Force and my office to track demand trends and use of force in mental health-related incidents.
- Local mental health partnership meetings established at a town and county level to agree the most appropriate ways to support recurrent service users.

Last month I published my new Police and Crime Plan for the Dyfed-Powys area, within which I have set out the importance of following a public health approach to high harm problems including mental health. I have personally committed to continue to lobby Welsh Government and

local partners for a more integrated approach to improve leadership and provision of mental health services; including support for front line services, to enable them to respond more effectively to individuals with mental health needs.

Dyfed-Powys Police's Mental Health Strategy for 2022-25 focuses on four thematic work streams:

- Crisis care and handover procedures
- Suicide prevention and self-harm
- Criminal justice and custody
- Recurrent service users and trends

Relationships with statutory partners are all very positive, with local health boards, local authorities and CAHMS supporting monthly mental health problem-solving meetings in each of the four counties covered by Dyfed-Powys Police. I am also represented at the four Public Service Boards.

The Force's approach underpinning all our current activity is 'Building Resilience'. This means that they are seeking to define and enhance all internal and external processes for mental health. Primarily, this involves a very healthy partnership with health colleagues working towards shared goals. For service users it means that they are adopting a problem-solving approach to assist with signposting and referral to minimise the likelihood of further police contact. For Dyfed-Powys Police staff it means a new training package and new simplified guidance. For our communities this means that they are actively supporting various projects such as Twilight Sanctuaries, additional places of safety and any other positive charity led work.

My arrangements for oversight of custody focuses on vulnerable detainees, including those experiencing mental ill-health. In addition, one of my Policy Advisors maintains good links with the Force Strategic Mental Health lead to keep abreast of key developments and challenges. I also receive periodic updates and continue to work with Welsh counterparts to lobby Welsh Government and partner agencies for improved mental health services.

As the current chair of Policing in Wales I will ensure our collective focus on this important matter to drive improvements for all who encounter our justice system.