

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership
Subject: PCC update - mental health
Date: 18 November 2021



Introduction:

1. This paper provides a brief update on developments relating to mental health and an overview of activity that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and his office have engaged in.
2. The PCC has now stepped down as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) lead for Mental Health, but remains committed to supporting those who are vulnerable as well as reducing mental health demand on Kent Police.

Inquiry into Mental Health and Covid-19:

3. In October 2020, due to anecdotal reports of police forces experiencing a growth in mental health demand, the PCC initiated an inquiry to establish whether those with poor mental health were getting the right care, from the right person at the right time during the pandemic.
4. Phase One consisted of an initial call for evidence which was issued in September 2020 and sought feedback from PCC colleagues, police forces, health practitioners and mental health support services.
5. Findings from the submissions included:
 - changes in the type of demand – across a number of fields, not just mental health, those who regularly contacted the police pre-pandemic did not do so in the same quantity;
 - reports of a new cohort – an increase in individuals who previously had no mental health related issues presenting with very complex needs;
 - limited capacity in mental health settings due to social distancing; and
 - no identified link between demand and geography – the challenges faced in rural and urban areas were very similar.
6. To establish further evidence, the PCC commissioned a second phase involving a series of roundtables to explore the previous feedback around demand management/prevention, but also to identify good, innovative work that was taking place and could be shared. Invitations were sent to frontline officers, mental health professionals, PCC colleagues and importantly, those with lived experience.
7. The outcome was a set of broad recommendations for:
 - i) the Government and the Sector to develop and improve the response to mental health; and
 - ii) to help agencies prepare and respond to such situations in the future.
8. Copies of the [Phase One](#) Findings and [Phase Two](#) Report can be found on the APCC website.

Crisis care governance:

9. The PCC continues to chair the Kent and Medway Mental Health Crisis Care Board which replaced the Crisis Care Concordat.
10. The Board has Chief Executive (or equivalent) representation from the Kent and Medway CCG, Kent Police, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT), South East Coast Ambulance Service, Kent County Council, Medway Council and NE London NHS Foundation Trust.
11. The Board met virtually in July; agenda items included:
 - Draft Terms of Reference with the following priority workstreams:
 - ✓ Sharing of relevant partnership data to enable greater insight and monitoring (Prevention)
 - ✓ Embedded urgent crisis triage offering 24/7 assistance and support via 111 for patients, carers, family with direct line for officers (Response)

- ✓ Review of alternative provision, such as Safe Havens, to ensure meeting expectations / demand at key times and for key demographic (Prevention)
- ✓ Review of joint analytical products, to ensure fit for purpose (Prevention)
- ✓ Implementation of process to review repeat presenters, serious incidents and consider thematic areas to ensure learning and correct service provision (Recovery)
- Key Performance Indicators - demonstration of Kent Police's mental health dashboard; work also commissioned to review and pull together data from across agencies to gain insight.
- Update from sub-group - Mental Health Urgent & Crisis Care Oversight Group - on each of the discrete workstreams.

12. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of this month.