

From: Ann Barnes, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
To: Kent Police and Crime Panel
Subject: Mental Health Concordat

Executive Summary:

This paper charts the progress that Kent Police and partners have made towards the delivery of the Mental Health Concordat. The significant work to date means that people suffering mental health illness, and who happen to come into contact with the police or other agencies, will experience a far more effective and joined-up level of care.

The Mental Health Concordat redefines the core responsibilities of health, police and other agencies in providing care for people experiencing a mental health crisis. The Concordat has been signed at a national level and Kent is in the process of developing a local version. Prior to the introduction of the national Concordat, Kent Police and partners were already significantly ahead of the game, having put in place a number of measures to address concerns the Concordat is seeking to resolve. Work is progressing well on agreeing the Local Concordat, with a number of initiatives already being delivered, such as a Street Triage pilot which the Commissioner has provided £75,000 one-off funding for.

The Commissioner will maintain oversight of the Local Concordat's delivery through the Governance Board, regular updates from senior officers and her influence with wider (non-policing) stakeholders.

Introduction:

1. A national *Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat* was published by the Department of Health in February 2014 and is supported by a broad range of partner agencies including Police and Crime Commissioners, directors of public health, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England.
2. The Concordat redefines the core responsibilities of health, police and other agencies in providing care for people experiencing a mental health crisis. There is also an expectation that each force area in England will have a Local Concordat by December 2014.
3. The Commissioner's support for this area of work links directly to the "*Improving the health and wellbeing of our communities, particularly tackling mental illness*" and "*Meeting national commitments*" priorities in her Police and Crime Plan.
4. The Concordat seeks to address a range of concerns that have previously been raised at national level across a number of force areas:
 - Ambulance transportation for patients detained under Section 136, Mental Health Act 1983.
 - Challenging the use of police cells due to bed shortages.
 - Allowing the admission of intoxicated patients to mental health suites.
 - Providing an in-county place of safety for children.
 - Training for police officers and staff.
 - Interagency information sharing.
5. Prior to the Concordat being signed, Kent Police (in consultation with the Commissioner's Office) had already put in place a range of measures to address the above issues:
 - A monthly strategic Policing and Mental Health Partners' Meeting. This brings together director-level managers from the Approved Mental Health Practitioner Service, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Adult and Child Mental Health Service Providers, Public Health and the Clinical Quality Commission. The Partners' Meeting focuses on tackling key and enduring problems.
 - A sub-group of the Partners' Meeting focussing on delivery of the Concordat.

- A Mental Health Gold Group (chaired by T/ACC Central Operations) to deliver an ambitious Tactical Delivery Plan. The plan already mirrored most of the Concordat aspirations.
 - Divisional Section 136 oversight meetings, bringing local police and relevant managers together to resolve problems.
 - Nominated Force 'Single Points of Contact' for every statutory mental health facility in Kent.
6. Locally, Commissioners are instrumental in ensuring their local action plan is agreed and delivered. This is achieved by supporting and holding their force to account for operational delivery as well as using their influence with partner agencies to ensure collaborative arrangements are working.

Development of the Local Concordat:

7. The Concordat sub-group met in February 2014 and drafted a comprehensive 'Mental Health Practitioners Delivery Plan' (the Local Concordat) to define the journey from status quo to delivery of the aspirations. The plan is ready for discussion and approval at the next Partners' Meeting.
8. Progress in delivering the Local Concordat in Kent is going well, with a number of aspirations already being met. These include:
- One-off funding from the Commissioner (£75,000 – until succumbed into the budget) for a successful three-night per week Street Triage pilot from September to December 2013. The pilot has been extended in its current format and there are plans to extend to a seven-night service from the 1st July 2014.
 - Speedier access to advice from Crisis Teams via an automated telephone system.
 - Ambulance transportation for patients detained under Section 136 (with access to trained healthcare professionals) rather than being transported in police vehicles.
 - Quality mental health interventions in custody through the work of trust-funded Community Psychiatric Nurses (CPNs) who support custody officers and Forensic Practitioner Nurses in providing advice, triaging and seeking Mental Health Act assessments for detainees.
 - The creation of a ground-breaking mental health awareness DVD developed in partnership with the lead consultant psychiatrist from Kent and Medway Partnership Trust. The DVD is being delivered through mandatory, annual Officer Safety Training and will ultimately become available in episodic format to all officers and staff via the Force intranet.
 - Repeat presenter and caller data that can be used with our partners to address the needs of patient's repeatedly in crisis and reduce unnecessary or inappropriate calls for service.

Next Steps:

9. A number of matters around the Local Concordat are being considered in upcoming meetings of the sub-group, these include:
- Providing a place of safety for children and young people within county boundaries.
 - Resolving the role of police officers called to restrain patients in mental health hospitals.
 - How participating agencies will be expected to report progress against their individual work streams at future sub-group and Partners' meetings; and
 - How to take forward a proposal for each partner to formally and publically comment on how their input has improved service delivery in relation to policing and mental health.

Oversight:

10. The Commissioner will maintain oversight of the Local Concordat's delivery through the Governance Board, regular updates from senior officers as well as her influence with wider (non-policing) stakeholders.