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To: Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) – 19th July 2017

Classification: For Information

Subject: Mental Health Update

Summary This report provides an update on the key activities being undertaken by the PCC with regards to mental health

Introduction:

1. In Kent, it is estimated that 33% of Kent Police's time is spent dealing with cases involving mental health. The 24/7 nature of policing means that there has been an increasing reliance on the Police to assist those in mental health crisis. This means that Kent Police are often the first point of contact for people in crisis rather than healthcare professionals.
2. As such, dealing with those with mental health issues, whether related to a crime or some other incident, creates great demand on officers and staff who are not experts in this field. Whilst policing can have a role in mental health crisis, particularly where there is a criminal allegation, preventative activity by those organisations skilled to offer support should be the priority.
3. Research also shows that members of the emergency services are more at risk of experiencing a mental health problem than the general population, but less likely to seek support. Therefore, it is equally important to ensure officers and staff receive appropriate mental health training and have access to specialist support to promote their own wellbeing.

Commissioner's Safer in Kent: the Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan:

4. Kent Police may encounter people with mental health issues who are victims, witnesses, offenders, in crisis or been reported missing. One in four people will experience a mental health problem each year for a number of reasons which may manifest itself in many different ways. Mental health does not discriminate and that is why the PCC is determined to revolutionise the way in which people with mental health issues interact with the police and why it is one of the 'Guiding principles' in the Safer in Kent Plan.
5. The PCC recognises that issues related to mental health cannot be addressed by the police in isolation. As a result he has established a Mental Health and Policing Oversight Board; to review all of the inter-connected issues and to hold Kent Police, KMPT, the Clinical Commissioning Groups and other services to account on behalf of the public. The Board met in April and is due to meet again in October 2017.

6. Elements of the Police and Crime Act yet to be implemented will see the use of police cells for the detention of children suffering a mental health crisis banned, and adults only held in custody in the most extreme circumstances. Via the Oversight Board, the PCC will monitor delivery of the Kent Police and KMPT Mental Health Strategy that was officially launched on 20 June 2017. The Strategy includes commitments to:
 - develop Street Triage teams;
 - improve data collection and make better use of information;
 - implement suitable alternative places of safety;
 - reduce 'frequent presenters'; and
 - develop joint training for police and health professionals.
7. Further to the Strategy, Kent Police and KMPT have developed a community street triage service, similar to that run previously in Kent, to provide the best and most appropriate care for those suffering a crisis. Initially running in Thanet and Medway, the service sees a qualified health practitioner accompanying police officers to incidents involving someone suffering a mental health crisis at key times.
8. The Commissioner has also provided funding to enable counsellors from the mental health charity Mind to work in the Force Control Room for two nights a week, offering support to callers with mental health issues and reducing demand on officers and staff. The PCC is clear that having counsellors working alongside police staff in the Force Control Room is making a difference. Vulnerable callers are getting a better service by being able to speak to a trained professional, and in some cases, patrols have been diverted from attending calls as a result of their intervention.
9. In October 2016, the Department of Health awarded £8.4m for 47 projects across the country to ensure those in mental health crisis do not end up in police cells. This included three successful bids from the Kent and Medway Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat, of which the OPCC is a member.

The county received £59,000 funding for the following three projects:

- A Crisis Café in Tonbridge, run by West Kent Mind to provide an alternative and more appropriate place of safety;
 - A mobile engagement vehicle, used by the Thanet Community Safety Partnership to provide information and advice in the community;
 - A secure response vehicle, for use by KMPT to transport those in crisis from places of safety to appropriate care facilities.
10. In conjunction with NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group, the PCC has helped fund two new mental health wellbeing cafes. Run by local branches of the mental health charity Mind, the Solace Café in Tonbridge, and the Hope Café in Maidstone, offer out-of-hours support for people who wish to chat or seek support with any element of their mental health. The PCC is also providing funding towards the running costs of the Medway Safe Haven Bus.
 11. In relation to officer and staff welfare, the PCC has provided funding for the 'Feel Well, Live Well' Programme that offers employees a boost in resilience, self-awareness and general wellbeing. The programme is particularly tailored to those working within an emergency service and the enhanced 'stressors' from shift work, unsociable hours and potential trauma and high stress exposure. In excess of 50 courses have been delivered and it is open to all on a voluntary attendance basis.

12. In addition the PCC supports the Police Federation's national campaign, 'Protect the Protectors' and all staff in the OPCC have received dementia friendly training, to learn more about dementia and the small ways they can help create dementia friendly communities.

Commissioning Services that Reduce the Pressure on Policing due to Mental Health

13. The PCC has allocated funding from his Commissioning Budget for new and innovative projects that reduce pressure on policing due to mental health through early intervention, raising awareness, counselling, crisis support or provision of alternative places of safety.

14. The first round of the Mental Health & Policing fund was launched on 1 March 2017 and invited bids from organisations for a maximum of £10,000 or £20,000 for cross border projects. However, the purpose of this funding is not to support the delivery of mental health services which are the responsibility of health providers or to support those services where statutory funding has been withdrawn or reduced.

15. Organisations were asked to bid against one or more of the following criteria
- Support the bringing together of relevant bodies to review mental health and policing in the county and to deliver solutions which will ensure effective and appropriate support
 - Ensuring that staff have the support and training required to deal with mental health incidents safely and appropriately
 - Supporting mental health professionals, police resources and other partners to ensure those with mental health issues, that come into contact with policing receive the right support
 - To work with partners to raise awareness of mental health and how to access support

16. 30 bids were received for the first funding round for a range of projects across the county. Following the evaluation process 12 groups were awarded a total of £107,556.

| Organisation | Nature of Project | £ |
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| Talk It Out Deal | Mental health well-being cafe | 9,690 |
| Tunbridge Wells Mental Health Resource | Serenity Café | 10,000 |
| Dads Unlimited | Mental health support group | 9,786 |
| Folkestone Sports Centre Trust | Chrysalis Project, providing activities for adults with mental health issues | 3,000 |
| Youth Ngage | Mind-Full project, raising awareness and preventing mental health issues among African-Caribbean communities in North Kent | 10,000 |
| Folkestone and District Mind | Funding for two workers to provide face to face out of hours support to people in crisis | 10,000 |
| Dover Outreach Centre | Cognitive behavioural therapy nurse for homeless people | 10,000 |
| Kent Community Safety Team (KFRS, Kent Police and Kent County Council) | Staff and volunteers' training to enable them to work alongside partners to improve mental health response | 12,000 |
| Thanet District Council | Sporting Minds project, delivering activities to improve residents' mental and physical well-being | 3,380 |

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| Young Kent | Me2 Peer Inclusion Mentoring Service | 10,000 |
| Improving Mental Health Provision | Overnight provision of mental health services for those in crisis in Medway | 9,700 |
| Together/Swale Your Way | Well-being Cafe | 10,000 |