

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

15 Sept 2020

**SUBJECT: MENTAL HEALTH**

**Report of the Chief Constable**

<p><b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b></p> <p>1. To provide an update to the PCC on Mental Health.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) seeks to understand the impact of Mental Health and how this is recognised within the West Yorkshire Police.</p>
<p><b>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</b></p> <p>3. Mental Health is recognised as a priority in the Police and Crime Plan. Safeguarding vulnerable people is included as one of the four outcomes in the Plan. We have seen some successes in the responses made to people experiencing a mental health crisis. However more needs to be done to reduce the risk of those with mental health issues both committing and becoming victims of crime, and of victims not getting the treatment they need for mental health issues they may experience following crime.</p>
<p><b>KEY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>4. The West Yorkshire Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum was launched in 2015. It is chaired by the OPCC Interim CEO on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Its members include West Yorkshire Police, Transport Police and the other emergency services, CCGs, Mental Health Trusts, NHS England, Public Health England, and the third sector. Through the Forum the PCC makes sure that partners are working together to collectively support people with mental health issues who find themselves in contact with the criminal justice system – as either offenders or victims - and look for opportunities to intervene at the earliest stage.</p> <p>5. West Yorkshire has responded positively to the changes in legislation affecting the use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act which were implemented in December 2018. West Yorkshire is complying with the new legislation but it does pose daily challenges for the Police, NHS and third sector. Work continues to ensure that whilst patients are never taken to police cells, they need to be transported swiftly to a place of safety and do not simply end up sitting in a police car or A&amp;E, whilst a place is found for them. The use of S136 has improved, with partners are working particularly well together to seek alternative approaches. The Forum receives regular reports on progress.</p> <p>6. The Forum has a number of strands of works at the current time. These include:  a) responses to people experiencing a mental health crisis</p>

- b) therapeutic support for victims of crime
- c) developing appropriate transport options for those in crisis
- d) support for people with multiple and complex needs
- e) ensuring a joined up partnership approach when dealing with clients, to minimise further trauma

7. The PCC has invested through the Safer Communities Fund, which sees Proceeds of Crime Money returned to communities in 188 projects to support Mental Health totalling £934,379.79.
8. Therapeutic support for victims of crime is a new strand of work. Following discussion at the Forum, including a presentation about the services available from one trust, Victim Support is working with the trust to achieve greater mutual understanding of the support each can provide to victims who may be experiencing mental health problems as a result of crime. It is hoped this can result in a strengthening of referral pathways in that district, and the lessons learned be applied West Yorkshire wide.
9. The PCCs Community Conversation Survey June 2020 has highlighted the impact of Covid on Mental Health.
10. Through case studies, the PCC is supporting WYP to understand better, how people react and present, when experiencing MH crisis, so that officers can find better ways of supporting them. This should reduce the number of arrests made, and the ensuing criminalisation, of people with specific conditions such as autism, or affected mental health or function.
11. The User Voice report, commissioned by PEG and due to be released in Oct '20, highlights the client experience and the recommendations will be driven through the CJ and MH Forum to ensure that partners listen to the user experience and develop services accordingly

#### ATTACHMENT

- [Chief Constables report – Mental Health](#) (PDF 699KB)