

## Police and Crime Panel

1<sup>st</sup> February 2019



## Policing and Mental Health: Picking Up the Pieces

### Report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

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#### Purpose

1. To brief the Panel on the PCVC's response to the recent inspection report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Policing, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) into the links between policing and mental health.

#### Background

1. The report, *Policing and Mental Health*, correctly identifies increasing demands on police forces caused by gaps in mental health services and their increased role of gatekeeping to ensure access to appropriate support from other relevant services or the criminal justice system. However, the report fails to suggest alternative options to alleviate these increased demands. Whilst austerity has impacted on all organisations, including the police, the police service remains the service of first and last resort. We need the appropriate services to be able to respond to these incidents 24/7 so that the police are not the ones left dealing with them.

#### Recommendations

2. There are a number of recommendations which Durham Constabulary will need to address. I list them below, together with the responses I have submitted to the Home Secretary and the Chief Inspector.

*Recommendation 2* – All forces should carry out a 'snapshot' exercise to assess their mental health-related demand

Attempts have been made in Durham to assess mental health demand based on the force's own qualifier of mental health. Once the NPCC lead and College of Policing agree a new national definition of mental ill-health, Durham Constabulary will be able to repeat the snapshot exercise.

*Recommendation 3* – All forces should evaluate their mental health triage services

The Durham and Darlington Crisis Care Concordat is in the process of evaluating the local street triage service, following full service delivery of more than 12 months.

*Recommendation 4* – All forces should review their mental health training programmes

Durham Constabulary has rolled out College of Policing compliant training for the past 2 years for new officers and response officers.

### **Other comments**

3. In respect of other comments made by the report, aside from the above recommendations, I also commented to the Home Secretary and Chief Inspector on joint training with partners, and the incorporation of service user and 'lived experience' feedback within training programmes.

On the former, Durham Constabulary has delivered numerous joint multi-agency training sessions across partnership audiences with positive feedback and future opportunities continuing to be shared.

On the latter, service users in County Durham and Darlington are involved in delivering police officer training, and officers regularly attend service user groups. Similarly, the liaison and diversion teams in police custody and the street triage teams in the force control room seek service-user feedback.

Ron Hogg  
**Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner**

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**Appendix 1: Risks and Implications**

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**Finance:** No specific implications.

**Staffing:** No specific implications.

**Equality and Diversity:** No specific implications.

**Accommodation:** No specific implications

**Crime and Disorder:** No specific implications.

**Children's Act 2004:** No specific implications

**Stakeholder/Community Engagement:** No specific implications.

**Environment:** No specific implications

**Collaboration and Partnerships:** No specific implications

**Value for Money and Productivity:** No specific implications.

**Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities:** No specific implications.

**Commissioning:** No specific implications

**Other risks:** No specific implications

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