

DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
30TH JULY 2021

MENTAL HEALTH AND POLICING

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider the report prepared by the panel sub-group and make such recommendations to the Commissioner as the Panel thinks fit.

Reasons:

In its annual report for 2020/2021 the panel resolved to inquire into this issue and make recommendations to the Commissioner

Report Author:

Mrs Helen Thomas

Designation:

Co-opted Panel Member

Tel No.

01267 224018

E Mail Address:

rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DYFED – POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
30TH JULY 2021

MENTAL HEALTH AND POLICING

In its Annual report for 2020/2021 the Panel resolved to undertake an inquiry into how the commissioner approaches the issue of mental health and policing. The aim of this piece of work was to satisfy the panel whether the approach taken by the Commissioner represents best practice and serves to safeguard the vulnerable in the force area

The panel established a subgroup to conduct this inquiry consisting of:

Mrs Helen Thomas (co-opted member) – Chair
Cllr Ken Howell (Carmarthenshire)
Cllr Lloyd Edwards (Ceredigion)
Cllr Stephen Joseph (Pembrokeshire)
Cllr Les George (Powys)

The subgroup's findings are attached and contain the following recommendations:

- That in his next Police and Crime Plan the Commissioner again places an emphasis on the work the police do in relation to those with mental health problems. However, we would like to see the Plan contain more information about the nature and extent of that involvement and the financial implications that arise as a result. We believe that this would help increase public understanding of how police resources are utilised and inform the wider debate on the proper resourcing of mental health services.
- That the Commissioner continues to build on his existing good work with partner agencies by exploring the possibility of co-option (either for himself or the force) onto relevant regional partnership boards. We believe that this will facilitate collaborative working at a strategic level and hopefully contribute to a more efficient and effective use of police resources.
- That the Commissioner, in conjunction with the police force and partner agencies, explores whether the CONNECT project would offer a template for service delivery which would help reduce the demands on the police in relation to persons with mental health problems.
- That the Commissioner continues to maintain oversight of the force's response to mental health, with particular emphasis on:
 - a) Appropriate training
 - b) Street triage teams
 - c) The use of police cells and vehicles as places of safety

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: *R J Edgecombe (Lead Officer to the Panel)*

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Host Authority File	PACP-026	County Hall, Carmarthen