



Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

5 March 2019

Dear Home Secretary

**HMICFRS Recommendations from Policing and Mental Health - Picking up the Pieces**

In line with my statutory responsibilities as Police and Crime Commissioner and following consultation with the Chief Constable, I am writing in formal response to the HMICFRS report 'Policing and mental health: picking up the pieces', published on 27 November 2018.

**Recommendation 1**

**The NPCC lead and College of Policing should agree a new national definition of mental ill- health for all forces to adopt**

Response:

Dorset Police is aware of the national strategy that was released for consultation in January 2019, including the new national definition of mental ill health, and will implement these as soon as they have been agreed and finalised.

**Recommendation 2**

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

Response:

- a) All s136 uses by Dorset Police are captured on the Niche system and in a bi-monthly multi agency performance pack which is submitted as part of Home Office ADR requirements.
- b) Dorset Police maintain two separate sets of data for s136 uses in custody - for those individuals brought into custody under s136 and for those brought into custody and subsequently detained under s136 to allow the transfer of individuals who are awaiting a bed and being held without a legal framework.
- c) All s136 uses by Dorset Police will be scrutinised by the Strategic Mental Health Legislation Group a multi-agency group meeting bi monthly later this year. In addition, a standardised process is in place under s135 to enable approved mental health practitioners to request Dorset Police assistance when they are dealing with S135 (1) and (2) Warrants.

- d) Staff occasionally have to deal with individuals in Police custody who have been arrested for a criminal matter. During the course of their detention a mental health act assessment is conducted and a decision to detain under MHA is made. In the meantime the grounds to detain the individual for the criminal matter cease, the MHA bed has not been identified and so the individual is held unlawfully until such times the assessment is complete. Such activity under s136 MHA will be captured under the Niche record and bi monthly multi agency performance pack.
- e) Dorset Police are awaiting confirmation from the Home Office as to whether the new national definition of mental health has been accepted in order to capture all incidents which fall within this definition.
- f) Dorset Police front line managers are able to assess demand through access to current performance data including mental health on the Dormis intranet portal.

### **Recommendation 3**

#### **All forces should evaluate their mental health triage services**

##### Response:

- a) Dorset Force completed an evaluation of street triage in 2016. The service is currently under review due to new contracts being introduced in April 2019 under the Connection Service.
- b) Dorset Police's Liaison & Diversion services have been renewed under a national contract which identifies minimum national standards.
- c) In order to review existing and new pilot initiatives, Dorset Police have created a register of initiatives with agreed review and evaluation dates, which captures lessons learnt. All future initiatives or pilots will require the support of the Alliance Strategic Mental Health Board prior to implementation.

### **Recommendation 4**

#### **All forces should review their mental health training programmes**

##### Response:

Dorset Force has completed development of their Organisational Needs Analysis. Commencing April 2019 the Force will be rolling out MH training to all front line officers and staff including Force Control Room staff and Special Constables. This training has been developed by our Mental Health Strategic coordinator and mapped against the College of Policing Learning Outcomes to ensure it meets them.

## Recommendation 5

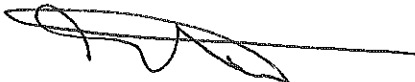
**The Crisis Care Concordat steering group should carry out a fundamental review and make proposals for change**

### Response:

- a) Dorset Police utilise shared co-produced policies to address the following activities: S135 MHA, S136 MHA, S140 MHA, Missing Patients from MH units.
- b) This collegiate approach ensures all partners share the same understanding of processes and risk.
- c) An agreed response has been developed by Dorset Police to concern for welfare calls from other professionals; a draft of this has been circulated for feedback to Local Authority and Mental Health professionals for completion by all parties by 1 April 2019.
- d) With regard to the recommendation to develop a single documented handover to health care establishments when dealing with mental health patients, the s136 monitoring handover form (which is currently a shared form between other agencies and the police) is used at all health establishments. The force is currently working a similar type of form to be used for non-metal health related individuals taken to hospital by the Police.

As you know, mental health and policing is an area that I am particularly passionate about. I trust this response provides reassurance around the work being undertaken in Dorset in response to the HMICFRS findings. I will continue to take a keen interest and scrutinise this area of business closely.

Yours sincerely



Martyn Underhill  
Police and Crime Commissioner