

Mental Health Awareness Week: Toolkit for Police and Crime Commissioners

Ahead of Mental Health Awareness Week (**12-18th May**), the Association for Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) has developed a toolkit resource that aims to support Police and Crime Commissioners; Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners; and Deputy Mayors (henceforth PCCs) to take part in this awareness event and to provide public reassurance around mental health in policing.

This year's theme, **community**, highlights the importance community safety and cohesion has for mental wellbeing. As locally elected community leaders, PCCs play a key role in holding Chief Constables to account and working with local partners to keep communities safe. Below we have provided a number of suggestions that PCCs and their teams can deliver locally to help raise awareness of mental health support and where to seek support, as well as how PCCs are playing a key role in overseeing roll out of Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) in their force areas.

Raising Awareness

As local community leaders, PCCs can raise awareness of mental health charities and support services, such as:

- **Mental Health Foundation**- Since 2001, the Mental Health Foundation has been leading Mental Health Awareness week across the UK, bringing partners together to focus on improving mental health.
- **NHS 111 Service**- If you need mental health support, you can call NHS 111 and choose the mental health option to be connected to a mental health professional.
- **Samaritans**- Provides a free listening service for those experiencing mental health problems across the UK and Ireland.
- **Rethink Mental Illness**- A leading charity provider in England, and aim to bring about change to the health and social care system to improve support.
- **Mind** and **Mind Cymru** - Provides information, support and campaigns for people experiencing mental health problems as well as information for local services.

PCCs can also share local support services which are available to their local communities, see for example **Cambridgeshire's PCC**, **Cleveland's PCC**, and **Surrey's PCC**.

How PCCs are Delivering to Improve Mental Health

During MH Awareness week, PCCs may want to promote how their offices are supporting MH outcomes by overseeing rollout of RCRP and bringing partners together.

The [APCC has produced RCRP guidance](#) for PCCs to help support successful rollout.

Examples include:

- [Cleveland PCC](#) recently held a scrutiny meeting with the Chief Constable, asking three questions on RCRP delivery and associated risk because of recommendations included in the APCC's RCRP guidance.
- **West Yorkshire's Deputy Mayor** holds [Community Outcome](#) meetings with the Chief Constable to seek reassurances from West Yorkshire Police that RCRP is a phased initiative and to establish what contingency measures are in place.
- **Dyfed-Powys OPCC** participated in daily RCRP catch-up calls with Dyfed-Powys Police, local health boards, local authorities, and voluntary sector organisations. Now RCRP is established across Dyfed-Powys, these calls now take place monthly.
- **Hampshire and the Isle of Wight PCC** secured funding to commission a 12-month Mental Health Deployment Co-ordinator pilot, based in the police control room and works directly with ambulance control rooms to ensure appropriate emergency services are responding to the right incident, and upskill and embed knowledge in the police control room.
- **Avon and Somerset PCC** co-commission the [Integrated Access Partnership](#) alongside health and Fire and Rescue Services, which includes a Mental Health Specialist Service Desk, staffed by mental health nurses and police officers which provides face-to-face or remote mental health triage by specialist clinicians, provides dedicated mental health response vehicles, and an Emergency Service Professional Line to provide emergency service officers practical and clinical advice.
- [Suffolk PCC](#) hosted a series of in-person drop in events for RCRP providing the local community an opportunity to understand RCRP and raise any questions.

Further examples of how PCCs can support MH Awareness Week include:

- Producing press release based on MH Awareness Week themes, for instance [West Mercia's PCC](#) highlighted the importance of movement as part of last year's MH Awareness Week.
- PCC meeting local mental health charities to help develop collaboration and support with local charitable sectors, see for example [Derbyshire's PCC](#).

Key Data

- In the year ending March 2024, there were 31,213 detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983, a decrease of 10% from 2022/23.¹

The following data below provides the number of saved officer hours since RCRP has been rolled out:

- According to Home Office- Department for Health and Social Care analysis:
 - Essex Police saved an estimated 4,840 officer hours per month,
 - Metropolitan Police Service has saved an estimated 18,910 officer hours per month,
 - Thames Valley Police have saved an estimated 2,490 hours per month.²
- Humberside Police found that on every month on average there were 540 fewer police deployments, and 1,441 officer hours saved since RCRP was rolled out.³
- Suffolk Police saved 1,132 officer hours per month following RCRP rollout which has been re-directed to improve arrival time for call outs and improved 101 performance.

¹ [Police powers and procedures: Stop and search, arrests and mental health detentions, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

² [Evaluating the implementation of Right Care, Right Person - GOV.UK](#)

³ [Policing Productivity Review \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#)