



- Nurse practitioners attending 'potential Section 136' incidents with police have reduced the incidence of arrest by 80%, resulting in £32,000 cost savings for the assessment process, during a six-month pilot
- Only people who need to be detained under S136 are now arrested, and a better quality of care provided for people seen in relevant police incidents

Street Triage for Mental Health

5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust / Cheshire Constabulary

Background:

Increased arrests and costs

- Arrests under Section 136 (S136) of the Mental Health Act increased by 25% across the Cheshire area between 2012 and 2013 - in Warrington this meant 120 arrests during the first half of 2013/14
- The rate of arrest under S136 was up to 55% higher than in other local authority areas
- Each S136 arrest costs an average of £1,600 for the subsequent assessment process (Warrington)
- Only around 30% of arrests under S136 resulted in detention (Warrington)

Operation Emblem aimed to:

- Improve outcomes for people seen in 'potential S136 incidents' by providing advice and early intervention referrals
- Reduce the number of inappropriate S136 detentions

Current State:

Mental Health Nurse Practitioners attending police incidents

Under the Operation Emblem service, a Mental Health Nurse Practitioner is on duty for one shift per day, seven days per week to provide the service in the Warrington and Halton area. The Nurse Practitioner attends all appropriate incidents with the police, to provide mental health advice and support. The nurse can access and update 'live time' care plans.

Next Steps

Funding is in place to run the programme for one year from April 2014, following a successful six-month pilot.

Impact:

Efficiency and cost-savings

- Under the six-month pilot (covering 29 shifts), 22 incidents were considered to be 'potential S136 incidents'. Of these, only 3 arrests were made. All 3 were detained following assessment
- The pilot showed an 80% reduction in S136 arrests, with a cost saving of £32,000

Quality of care

- Under this service, many people who do not need to be detained under S136 do not undergo a time-consuming assessment process, and do not have a record of this arrest which would show up, for example, on a DBS check
- The nurses can instead provide advice and early intervention referrals:
 - 40% of those not arrested received mental health follow-up
 - 15% were referred to substance misuse services
- Police officers' knowledge of mental health issues is improved, as has nurses' knowledge of police issues

The service is in the process of being rolled out to other parts of Cheshire.

Mental Health Act 1983 Section 136

This section allows a constable to remove an apparently mentally disordered person from a public place to a place of safety for up to 72 hours for the specified purposes. The place of safety could be a police station or hospital (often a special s136 suite).