

**Report of the** Deputy Director, Integrated Commissioning, Adults and Health, Leeds City Council & NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group.

**Report to** Director of Adults and Health

**Date:** 13 March 2019

**Subject:** Funding for mental health nurses in the police District Control Room

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### Summary of main issues

1. The Safer Leeds Executive has requested that funding of £38,166 per annum, for a three year period, is allocated from the Adults and Health Directorate's budget, as a third contribution towards the cost of two mental health nurses employed by LYPFT who are based at the police District Control Room.
2. The provision has to date been funded on a temporary basis, and during 2018/19, the funding for the service has been split 3 ways between West Yorkshire Police, NHS Leeds CCG and The Safer Leeds Executive.
3. In order to ensure continuity of the service, the Safer Leeds Executive has asked that the LCC contribution is now funded through the Adults and Health Directorate budget.

### Recommendations

4. The Director of Adults and Health is recommended to approve the allocation of £38,166 for a three year period from April 2019 to March 2022, as a third contribution towards the cost of two mental health nurses who are based at the police District Control Room.

## **1 Purpose of this Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Director of Adults and Health to allocate of £38,166 per annum, for a three year period from April 2019 to March 2022, to contribute towards the cost of two mental health nurses who are based at the police District Control Room.

## **2. Background information**

- 2.1 LYPFT operates a multi-disciplinary Crisis Assessment Service (CAS) which is a city-wide service operating 24/7, based from the Becklin Centre on the immediate outskirts of the city centre. The service also has responsibility for the Section 136 Health Based Place of Safety for the city and provides 4 adult and 2 designated CAMHS rooms.
- 2.2 Since 2014 the Crisis Assessment Service has provided a Mental Health Crisis Triage (Street triage) element that supports the police and ambulance service in being able to offer a brief advice and assessment function to support a more appropriate mental health intervention and reduce the number of 136 detentions.
- 2.3 The mental health nurses from LYPFT have been based within the West Yorkshire Police (WYP) Leeds District Control Room at Elland Road since May 2015. The nurses provide 5-6 days cover each week and work alternate weekends. Predominantly the shift times are 10.00 - 22.30 on a weekday and 12.30 - 01.00am on the weekend.
- 2.4 The nurses have access to STORM police information system. They review logs that are headed "MISPER" "welfare check" "suicidal". The DCR nurses provide information/advice attached to these logs and will make direct contact where necessary with service users, carers and other professionals where mental health is the main concern for the call to the police.
- 2.5 In the spirit of the Crisis Care Concordat the service allows targeted work to meet the mental health demand placed on statutory agencies. The service aims to:
  - Provide immediate advice and support to police in contact with people who have mental health issues including live calls
  - Divert service users from Section 136 MHA detentions and provide access to timely mental health assessments
  - Initiate Multi Agency Care Plans for people who make frequent calls for service
  - Access and share, as appropriate, information held by health and social care
  - Support staff in the police hub in decision making
  - Signpost and refer into statutory and non-statutory agencies
  - Detect and improve outcomes for vulnerable people in contact with the Police
  - Support and allocate Appropriate Adults
  - Monitor contacts and identify frequent callers for service
  - Assist with Missing Persons calls

The nurses also provide rapid assessment of people with acute mental health problems.

- 2.6 The service addresses the following outcomes/priorities within the Police and Crime Plan:
- Reaching out to people at risk (including mental health)
  - Reducing risk of committing crime and being the victim of crimes for those with mental health problems
  - Reducing the numbers of referrals to EDT
- 2.7 The nurses undertake specific pieces of work for the most frequent callers to the police where mental health crisis is felt to be the reason for the contact. For those services users identified as frequent callers and are not under the care of secondary care services, the control room nurse will take a lead in developing and co-ordinating multi agency meetings, developing crisis plans and emergency service response and diversion.
- 2.8 The DCR nurses have been involved in the set-up and delivery of police training. The focus of the training has been to provide an overview of mental health support in Leeds and the pathways available to Leeds police officers when dealing with members of the public in mental health crisis. Focus has been on the encouragement of utilising the DCR nurse/ST diverting the need for use of S136 detentions and use of A&E.
- 2.9 Changes to the Policing and Crimes Act 2017 on the use of section 136 powers by the police have resulted in a further increase in referrals DCR nurses, Street Triage and the wider Crisis Assessment Service.
- 2.10 In offering timely support and advice and responding to referrals, the nurses have been able to divert referrals away from EDT and from MH social work teams thereby reducing pressures on those teams.

### **3 Historic Funding Arrangements**

- 3.1 An initial DCR pilot ran from May 2015 to March 2016, funded by Leeds North CCG (£45,076) and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) (£57,808). Following a review of the pilot, a further year's funding was allocated again by Leeds North CCG and the OPCC.
- 3.2 In April 2017, Leeds North CCG ceased its funding contribution and the two nurses returned to the Crisis Assessment team from May 2017. However, the impact of the loss of the nurses was felt immediately and sharply. Colleagues from LYPFT reported a 47% (circa 120 cases) increase in the number of Street Triage referrals in the first month that the nurses were absent in the control room, placing increased pressure on an already stretched service and impacting negatively on the user experience.
- 3.3 Short-term funding from LCC through the Safer Leeds Executive, matched by the OPCC was successfully secured on an evidence base of success and value for money, to get the provision reinstated, while a longer term solution was being sought.
- 3.4 Funding for this provision for 2018 -19 has been agreed by West Yorkshire Police, NHS Leeds CCG and Leeds City Council via the Safer Leeds Executive, split equally

three ways. The Safer Leeds Executive agreed to contribute towards the cost of the service on behalf of the Council on a short term basis whilst a longer term funding solution was sought. The Executive has now requested that Council's contribution is picked up by the Adults and Health Directorate from April 2019 in order to ensure the service is retained.

## **4.0 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 The service has been evaluated over the past three years and consultation has been undertaken with service users and carers about the value of the support provided by the mental health nurses.

4.1.2 Evaluation of the service shows that the number of mental health assessments undertaken with service users by the nurses has significantly increased over the time the service has been in place with the numbers of assessments completed now accounting for approximately 25% of the overall activity of the nurses, up from 10% in 2015/16. The evaluation also indicates that there have been improved processes resulting in quicker interventions.

4.1.3 There has not been any separate consultation or engagement on the issue of the Council's funding contribution being transferred from The Safer Leeds Executive to the Adults and Health Directorate as this is not deemed to impact on the nature of the service or its delivery.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening Tool has been completed and is attached at Appendix 1. This assessment demonstrates that the service meets the desired equality requirements.

### **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

4.3.1 This service makes significant contributions to a range of the City Plans, and in particular the Health and Wellbeing Plan and its priority to make Leeds the best City for Health and Wellbeing by 2030. This service helps identify and improve outcomes for vulnerable people who come into contact with the Police. It also enables the police, the local NHS organisations and the Council to support people with severe mental needs and people who are at the point of crisis in order to prevent detentions under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act.

4.3.2 The Best Council Plan is our strategic planning document, sitting at the top of a range of supporting strategies. It sets out what the council, working in partnership, will do to deliver better outcomes across Leeds.

4.3.3 The outcomes have directly link to the Best Council Plan's outcomes in the following areas:

- Be safe and feel safe
- Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives
- Live with dignity and stay independent for as long as possible

#### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

- 4.4.1 The annual cost to the Adults and Health Directorate is £38,166, with funding required over a three year period from April 2019 to March 2022.
- 4.4.2 The cost of the Council's contribution can be met from the Adults and Health Directorate's base budget.

#### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 4.5.1 This is a Significant Operational Decision
- 4.5.2 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information under the Access to Information Rules.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 The service will continue to be evaluated to ensure it delivers the identified objectives.

### **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 Funding for this provision was agreed by West Yorkshire Police, NHS Leeds CCG and Leeds City Council via the Safer Leeds Executive, split equally three ways. The Safer Leeds Executive agreed to contribute towards the cost of the service on behalf of the Council on a short term basis whilst a longer term funding solution was sought.
- 5.2 The Safer Leeds Executive has requested that Council's contribution is picked up by the Adults and Health Directorate from April 2019 in order to ensure the service is retained.

### **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Director of Adults and Health is recommended to approve the allocation of £38,166 for a three year period from April 2019 to March 2022, as a third contribution towards the cost of two mental health nurses who are based at the police District Control Room.

### **7. Background documents**

- 1. **None<sup>1</sup>**

## **Appendix One**

### Equality Impact Assessment

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works