

# Mental Health

## **Executive Summary:**

This policy will ensure West Midlands Police attend to their responsibilities to prevent and detect crime; and to protect the public where this is necessary in cases involving people with mental health problems, whether they be victims or those accused of offending.

This policy also aims to work towards reduction in reliance upon the police service as a *de facto* mental health crisis care provider, whilst ensuring improving training and leadership for operational officers in discharging their responsibilities to safeguard the vulnerable and investigate crime.

By ensuring we minimise those occasions where police officers provide crisis responses because of capacity issues or other difficulties in health care agencies, we reduce the potential to stigmatise and criminalise those of us whose lives are affected by mental distress.

The challenges and objectives for West Midlands Police, with clear emphasis on ensuring the safety, the dignity and the rights of the public is to build ever more effective partnerships with our colleagues and the public themselves.

## **Approved Professional Practice:**

- This policy has been checked against APP. West Midlands Police has adopted the APP provisions, with supplementary information contained herein, which reflects local practice and the needs of the communities served by West Midlands Police.

Those provisions are shown in the links below and can be accessed via the home page of the APP website

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/mental-health-index-2/?highlight=mental%20health?s=mental+health>

## **Policy Statements:**

1. The strategic intent of West Midlands Police is to deliver the force's priorities in mental health contexts:
  - By putting the safety, the dignity and the rights of the public at the centre of all decisions we take.
  - By minimising the recourse to policing as a *de facto* mental health care response and recognising our contribution as a restrictive intervention.
  - By ensuring appropriate, effective and timely responses to mental health related demands involving crime, risk and threat where proportionate.
  - By working collaboratively with health and social care organisations in the development of a partnership approach.
  - By seeking to maintain and enhance the legitimacy of the police service from the public's perspective.
2. Effective policing responses will be ensured by working collaboratively with the public and partners to ensure roles, rights and responsibilities are understood.

3. Ensure meeting structures at both force and partnership level to oversee development of the force's approach to mental health under the leadership of a Chief Officer.
4. NPUs are responsible for ensuring effective partnership arrangements are instituted and kept under review, where necessary through locally agreed joint protocols
5. Ensure processes develop an understanding of demand in policing, related to mental health to understand how partner pathways and policing relate.
6. NPUs are responsible for ensuring that demand is sufficiently understood in detail to allow for mitigation and quality improvement.
7. Ensure the availability of training and refresher training for operational police officers, using College of Policing modules as a common minimum standard.
8. Ensure the development of joint-training and other CPD for those officers and staff who have enhanced or additional responsibilities, inc force mental health leads.
9. WMP will ensure that staff are trained and equipped to undertake their operational and partnership roles to deliver the strategic intent.
10. Specially trained officers will be known as 'Mental Health Tactical Advisors' and will be available 24/7 across Force Response, Force Contact and WMP Custody functions, in particular.
11. Ensure local policy or protocols on topics which are subject to national Memorandums of Understanding or other Codes of Practice:
12. Ensure joint operating protocols with relevant health & social care partners for topics where policies are required by the Code of Practice to the MHA
13. Ensure development of an effective force mental health policy, taking account of relevant legislation, Codes of Practice and College of Policing APP.
14. West Midlands Police has developed guidance documents for police officers and partners which outline the parameters of the 'offer' we are able to make as a police service.

**Officers and Staff are to read all associated documents in addition to this policy**

**Definitions/Acronyms:**

See attached guidance document

**Procedural Guidance Documents List:**

- WMP Mental Health Strategy 2020
- A0 – Abbreviations & References
- A1 – Crisis Welfare Checks
- A2 – Places of Safety
- A3 – MCA
- A4 – Conveyance
- A5 – MHA Assessments
- A6 – Inpatient Units
- A7 – Investigation of Offences
- A8 – AWOL MHA
- A9 – No Beds Supplement

**Publication Instructions:**

Policy is suitable for publication and dissemination without amendments.

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**Policy Owner: Mental Health Lead**

**Policy Author: Insp. Michael Brown**

**Policy Contact: Supt Sally Seeley**

**Approved by: ACC Crime**

***Any enquiries in relation to this policy should be made directly with the policy contact/department shown above.***

**Force Executive Approval:**

**CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**Monitoring and Review**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date Reviewed</b>	<b>No change / Minor Changes / Major Changes (<i>detail</i>)</b>	<b>Amended / Agreed by</b>	<b>New review date</b>
1.0	13/01/2020	Policy Redrafted	Sally Seeley	22/01/2022