

Community Safety and Mental Health – Conclusions and Recommendations of Communities Scrutiny Panel Project

Chair's Introduction

This review was conducted against the background of the launch of several national and pan London reports and initiatives setting out to improve the outcomes for mental health service users when they come into contact with the police and judicial system.

At the April launch of the London trial of the Liaison and Diversion Service in Wood Green Civic Centre, a packed audience learned that up to 40% of the 300k people arrested each year in London have an enduring mental health condition. It is a sign of the determination of the Met to improve outcomes for these people that it was a Haringey police officer who originally suggested our review.

It is clear that better integration of services and agencies and improved sharing of information are fundamental to improving services. The Liaison and Diversion Service will do much to improve outcomes for clients but there is still much to be done in increasing and coordinating the resources that are available to provide support services to break the cycle of offending and imprisonment.

I hope that the recommendations in this review reflect the specific concerns of Haringey service users, carers and providers and will help shape the services needed to improve outcomes for clients, reduce offending and reduce the pressure on front line staff.

Thanks are due to all those who enthusiastically contributed their time, expertise and personal stories to the review.

Cllr. David Winskill