

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary
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Dear Home Secretary,

National inspection of Policing and Mental Health – picking up the pieces.

I write with regard to the national inspection report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on 27 November 2018 which focused on policing and mental health.

I welcome this report and the insight that it brings to the ever-growing demand on policing, and share the concerns of HMICFRS that the police service is becoming the emergency service of default in responding to people with mental health problems.

The Mayor and I have put victims at the heart of the Police and Crime Plan. This includes vulnerabilities such as those suffering from mental health problems. In particular, the Plan commits to trialling dedicated Mental Health teams in two areas of London to work with partners to problem solve cases and reduce demand by addressing the underlying issues of vulnerability linked to mental health. Alongside the Police and Crime Plan, further aspects of Mayoral policy on health are set out in London's Health Inequality Strategy, and his response to mental health delivered through the London Health Board THRIVE programme.

The Mayor has made an additional £12million of funding available to the MPS over four years, to improve the response to mental health incidents and reduce the pressures on resourcing. This funding will support a comprehensive training package for 2,000 frontline officers.

I am pleased to see the recognition in the inspection report of the MPS' effective toolkit policy available to officers and staff, detailing clear direction of each step that officers are likely to encounter in a mental health situation. Supporting all of its officers, the force also has a central mental health team that provides training and information on legislative changes through a network of borough-based mental health liaison officers of all ranks and grades.

I am confident that the MPS is progressing the four areas of improvement noted in the report for all forces. Specifically, the MPS has been participating in the embryonic discussions being co-ordinated nationally by the NPCC and College of Policing regarding the development of a definition for a mental health incident. The MPS will adopt this definition once it is agreed and disseminated to all forces. This will then help to further define the MPS demand picture, which it has been working on for the last 18 months.

Work with partners to review existing triage arrangements will be discussed at a conference co-hosted with partners in early summer 2019. This will explore current triage schemes and scope the logistics of an integrated Pan London scheme for all blue light services.

The final recommendation for all forces is to review its training programme, something the MPS has recently completed. The current training plan will focus on legislative amendments, policy and procedure, collaboration and providing a better understanding of mental ill health. The content will be based on the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP), the London Crisis Care Pathway and the MPS Mental Health Toolkit. Further development of the training offer is being progressed, to extend the training to police officers on the front line.

I hope this provides a useful summary of the MPS activity in response to this report.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

cc. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)
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