The Mental Health Challenge

Speaker biogs

Inspector Michael Brown, Mental Health Co-ordinator, College of Policing
Michael is the Mental Health Coordinator at the College of Policing and a serving officer with West Midlands Police. He has worked on mental health issues in policing for over a decade, driving the creation of seven Place of Safety services which have spared thousands of people the indignity of detention in cells. His use of social media on policing and mental health has been nationally internationally award-winning and he gave evidence to the Home Affairs Committee inquiry who further commended this work. Later in 2015 he will receive a President’s Medal from the Royal College of Psychiatrists for his significant contribution to improve the lives of people living with mental illness.

Julie Denley, Head of Learning Disability Services and Partnership NHS Wales
Julie is qualified as a Registered Mental Health Nurse in 1992. Having spent many years as working across inpatient services she then set up and ran many community services including crisis teams and primary care mental health services. Julie works for Hywel Dda University Health Board which provides healthcare services to a total population of around 372,320 and covers over a fifth of Wales with some large towns but mostly low population rural areas.
In her current post Julie has been working with Dyfed Powys Police and other partner organisations to better support people who have traditionally been detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. The result of this was commencement of a year’s pilot of ‘Street Triage’ in January 2015. The model has needed careful thought as the area for the pilot is vast but early results a very promising.
Julie has consistently seen silo working in public sector services impacting on other services, and believes that the recent challenging financial pressures have been a driver in some areas for better joint working and solutions and that have benefitted our communities significantly.
Marylyn Haines Evans, Chair, Public Affairs Committee, National Federation of Women’s Institutes

Marylyn hails from Carmarthenshire in West Wales and began her career with the National Health Service, Primary Health Care Sector. Nowadays, she and her husband have several business interests, primarily farming beef and sheep. Marylyn is a Deputy Superintendent Registrar conducting Marriage, Civil Partnership and British Citizenship Ceremonies. She is a longstanding member of Llangadog Women’s Institute and is a WI Adviser. Marylyn has held the position of Vice Chairman and Chairman of Sir Gar Carmarthenshire Federation of Wl’s. In 2005 she was elected Chair of the Federations of Wales and as such was an ex-officio member of the NFWI Board of Trustees. Marylyn was elected to the NFWI Board in 2009. She also sits on the Denman, Science and Leisure and WI Life Editorial Committees and Chairs the NFWI-Wales Get Cooking Steering Committee. Marylyn is Vice Chair of Governors at Llangadog CP School and a General Governor on the Council of the British Nutrition Foundation. She is a Deputy Lieutenant to the Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed.

Andy Shaw, National Custody Forum Secretary

I have been a police officer for almost 30 years, a sergeant for the last 15. Have performed many different roles from Response, Neighbourhood Policing, Traffic and currently Custody Officer. I have been sitting on the PFEW Custody Sergeants Forum for a number of years and am currently the groups Secretary, which is a body of custody officers offering advice to the former SCC now INB on all matters of custody, whether new policy or even new ideas to seek the best interests of members and detainees alike. Last year I was asked to give evidence to the Home Affairs Select committee to assist with their preparation of their report into the use of Section 135/136. A report that is long overdue.

Martyn Underhill, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner

Martyn Underhill is the first directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset. Martyn was elected on 16th November 2012 as an Independent candidate and took up office on the 21 November 2012. Prior to his election campaign, Martyn was a Detective Chief Inspector with Sussex Police, who retired in 2009 after 30 years of service.
Inspector Kate Woods, Mental Health Co-ordinator, Strategic Partnership

Kate has held the role of Force MH co-ordinator for the last 2 ½ years. Her previous roles of Inspector have been mainly in the partnership area of policing. She has held a variety of roles during her career mainly revolving around neighbourhood policing and partnership working. Her previous post was manager of the very successful Cheshire East's Integrated Offender Management team, a multi-agency team managing prolific offenders across the area. She took up the newly created post of Mental Health co coordinator to focus on the ever increasing demands placed on the service by individuals suffering from mental health.

During this time she has been instrumental in securing funding to deliver Street Triage across all 3 policing areas of Cheshire which she jointly manages with the 2 Mental Health Trusts involved _SBP and CWP. Her Halton and Warrington Triage Team featured on last Thursdays BBC 6 o’clock news with a debut follow up TV slot for her on BBC2s Victoria Derbyshire show.