Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons in Custody
Minimising the Risk of Death in Detention
A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Wednesday 12th October 2016
10:15am – 4:30pm
Central London

Public Policy Exchange holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.
Overview

Police custody and detention centres are locations where officers must equally ensure the incarceration of dangerous criminals and, too often, the well-being of vulnerable people, often with mental health problems. Deaths in or following custody are subsequently always highly sensitive and controversial occurrences, having a significant impact upon our collective confidence in the police and detention officers. Over the course of the last 12 months 14 people have died in or following Police custody, a slight decrease on the 17 reported deaths in 2014/15. Meanwhile, in immigration detention centres there were 63 suicide attempts in the first quarter of this year alone.

The Government has made a concerted effort to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses taken into Police custody and improve the safeguarding of those who are detained. In May 2015, building on the £25 million invested in liaison and diversion services at police stations and courts, the Government pledged a further £15 million to provide health based alternatives to police cells. In addition to this injection of funds, the forthcoming Policing and Crime Bill will make changes to the Mental Health Act by creating regulations to limit the circumstances in which police cells can be used as a place of safety for adults.

However, despite these measures, the recent findings of the Home Office ‘Review into Welfare in the Detention of Vulnerable Persons,’ argue that better safeguards are still needed to minimise serious incidences. Indeed, UK immigration detention centres, in particular, have been subject to serious criticism for allowing vulnerable people with mental health difficulties to deteriorate and for failing to learn from ill practice.

With the findings of the comprehensive review into incidents occurring in custody set to be published this summer, this timely symposium will provide the Police, custody and prevention officers, health and social care providers, mental health professionals and governmental departments with an invaluable opportunity to analyse the challenges involved in safeguarding all those in custody and work together to minimise the risks of serious incidents occurring in the future.

Why Attend?

✓ Analyse the conclusions of the review into incidents occurring in custody and develop strategic methods for implementing its recommendations.
✓ Determine how to improve staff training to recognise signs of mental difficulty and ensure continuity of care.
✓ Consider how to strengthen multi-agency working that prioritises healthcare assessment and appropriate treatment over incarceration.
✓ Discuss the need to collate and utilise data more meaningfully to manage and improve detainees care and welfare.
✓ Examine how to build public trust through greater transparency and accountability in the procedures, processes and investigations that follow deaths within custody.
✓ Assess the effectiveness of card based identification schemes and whether these are helpful in assisting with the identification of mental vulnerability amongst detainees.
✓ Share best practice on incorporating detailed risk assessments into operational planning.
✓ Explore methods for developing joint protocols and sharing information more effectively.

Who Should Attend?

- Probation officers
- Police authorities
- Forensic Physicians
- Force Medical Examiner
- Coroners
- Police Community Support Officers
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams
- Community Engagement Officers
- Community Relations Advisers
- Post Incident Managers (PIMs)
- Investigating Officers
- Custody Officers/Teams
- Professional Standards Teams
- Police Custody Teams
- Criminal Justice Teams
- Police Federation Lawyers
- Occupational Health and Medical Experts
- Independent Custody Visitors
- Police Operational Training Teams
- Local Criminal Justice Boards
- Prisoner Escort and Custody Services (PECS)
- Criminal Justice Liaison Services
- Criminal Justice Mental Health Liaison Services
- Offender Healthcare Teams
- Ambulance services
- Mental Health Trusts
- Forensic Mental Health Services
- Accident and Emergency Teams
- Acute Trusts (psychologists etc)
- Care Trusts (Mental Health Services)
- Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs)
- Crisis Resolution Teams (CRTs)
- Assertive Outreach Teams (AOTs)
- Early Intervention Psychosis Teams (EIPs)
- Drug and Alcohol Teams (DAATs)
- Drug Intervention Programmes (DIPs)
- Health Commissioners
- Local Health Board
- Social Workers
- Disability Practitioners
- Care Managers
- Residential Care Services

Accommodation

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit www.HotelMap.com/MSNUZ/

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It is important to ensure that no person with mental health problems – who has committed no crime- is detained in a police cell due to the lack of a health based alternative. Because as I have said before, the right place for a person suffering a mental health crisis is a bed, not a police cell. And the right people to look after them are medically trained professionals, not police officers."

- The Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Home Secretary 2015
Programme

09:30  Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:15  Chair’s Welcome and Introduction
10:30  Panel Session One: Safeguarding Detainees During Detention: Preventing Deaths and Suicide Attempts
   • The National Picture: Responding to the independent review into deaths and serious incidents in police custody.
   • Use of Force: Monitoring, proportionality and risk reduction.
   • Identifying and Managing Vulnerable Detainees: Risk assessment, information exchange and monitoring.
   • Improving the Standards of Police Detention: Exploring the role of custody visiting nationally.
   • Strengthening Multi Agency Working: Improving information sharing and developing joint protocols between the police, health providers and contractors.
11:15  Morning Refreshments
11:30  Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One
12:30  Networking Lunch
13:30  Panel Session Two: Providing Support and Protection During a Mental Health Crisis: Ensuring the Safe Handling and Detention of Vulnerable Persons
   • Ensuring Access to a Liaison and Diversion Service: Transferring the commissioning responsibility for healthcare to the NHS.
   • Detaining Vulnerable Suspects: Changes and challenges.
   • Ending the Misuse of Segregation: Analysing the impact of isolating vulnerable people within detention centres.
   • Heeding the ‘Shaw Review’: Developing a joint action plan to improve the provision of mental health services for those in immigration detention.
   • Fast Tracking Assessments: Expediting the transfer of vulnerable individuals to alternate places of safety.
14:15  Afternoon Refreshments
14:30  Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two
15:30  Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments
15:40  Networking Reception
16:30  Close

* Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice *

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 12th October 2016
Time: 10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue: Central London

Forthcoming Events

Transforming Blue-Light Services: Entrenching Integration, Collaboration, Efficiency and Public Safety
6th September 2016

Discussing the Impact of Brexit: Universities, Higher Education and Research Funding
7th September 2016

Child and Adolescent Health and Wellbeing: Working in Partnership to Safeguard Children from Sexual Exploitation
7th September 2016

Tackling Potholes and Improving Road Maintenance: Developing a Sustainable Strategy to Address Potholes on UK Roads
8th September 2016

Managing the Impact of Welfare Reform: The Role of Local Authorities in Supporting Households
13th September 2016

Pandemics and Infection Control: Meeting Tomorrow’s Threats and Challenges Today
14th September 2016

Preparing for the Impact of Brexit on the NHS: Challenges in Funding, Recruitment and Research
15th September 2016

Combating Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery: Developing a Stronger Multi-Agency Response for the Identification and Support for Victims of Trafficking
15th September 2016

Raising Standards at the Time of Slaughter: Analysing the Potential Impact of ‘Brexit’ upon Animal Welfare
20th September 2016

Overcoming Prisoner Re-Offending Rates through Prison Reform: Exploring the New Roles of Prison Governors and its Impact on Treatment and Behavioural Change of Prisoners
20th September 2016

Young Runaways and Missing Children: Enhancing Prevention, Protection and Provision in Every Local Area
21st September 2016

Developing Community Services to Deliver Better Outcomes for People with Autism
22nd September 2016

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