

# Open Agenda



## Place of Safety Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 6 October 2016

7.00 pm

ORTUS Learning & event centre, Denmark Hill Campus, 82 - 96 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London, SE5 8SN

## Supplemental Agenda

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6.	<b>STAKEHOLDERS VIEWS ON THE PLACE OF SAFETY PROPOSAL</b> Local police forces and Healthwatches have provided the enclosed submissions.	1 - 5

### Contact

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Date: 4 October 2016

## Place of Safety open day, 9 August 2016

### Response to the Joint Borough Scrutiny Committee: Lewisham, Lambeth, Croydon and Southwark

Dear Cllr Rebecca Lury,

Local Healthwatch worked in partnership with SLaM to organise an open day of the new Place of Safety Unit on 9 September 2016. The aim of the event was to gather feedback from mental health service users and local residents to help shape a better, patient led service.

Between local Healthwatch and SLaM we ensured that the event was widely publicised through a variety of communication channels with emphasis put on encouraging participation from seldom heard communities.

The event seemed quite well attended though it was not always possible to tell how many attendees were service users. A couple of young service users attended which was encouraging. Unfortunately due to issues with the building, the event was not held in the new facility, so we hope that everyone who wanted to attend was able to find their way. There were frequent tours of the unit itself. One person did tell Healthwatch that they would have liked more prominent basic information on the unit (what it is for, how many beds etc.)

Healthwatch staff were positioned in the room so as to prompt discussion around discharge from the Place of Safety, though many people talked to us more generally about Section 136 and crisis care. Healthwatch ensured that people's comments at the event were recorded.

Overall Healthwatch is pleased with the results of the engagement and we were given the opportunity to comment on the resulting draft report.

Healthwatch felt that the report was clearly written and while it did not cover the rationale for the merged Place of Safety, it contained much detail about the environment and operation of the unit and how potential users have been involved in designing these. We suggested that it should also include:

information on the number of carers/users who attended the open day

information on the protocol for when children and young people are on the unit (p12)

a larger range of comments from the open day (particularly the stress many people placed on the importance of better mental health training for police, plus some points about the

building, carer involvement, etc.) stronger emphasis on the need for fast callbacks after discharge (3 days is not soon enough).

Going forward, we welcome the opportunity to the new service by listening to the patients' views and experiences.

Healthwatch Lewisham, Healthwatch Southwark, Healthwatch Lambeth and Healthwatch Croydon.



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

**TOTAL POLICING**

Metropolitan Police Service submission to the Place of Safety Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 6 October 2016

The Metropolitan Police Service submission to the 26 April 2016 Joint Overview and Scrutiny committee remains relevant and is attached. The urgent need for safe and timely access to medical care following the use of s136 Mental Act 1983 is as acute as ever. Set against the impact of an apparent national bed management crisis, this remains a significant risk for all partners within the South London and Maudsley (SLaM) area.

Physically the new suite appears to be a significant improvement on existing facilities. The MPS welcomes the commitment to a maximum wait time, with a timely review after 30 minutes, within operating protocols. This will greatly improve upon the existing provision and make the process safer.

There are some issues that remain to be resolved that will impact upon JPoS delivery; these are being managed through the existing project management structure. It is expected that these will be resolved before the Joint Place of Safety (JPoS) opens.

**Risk**

We see a risk that there may be occasions where the JPoS cannot meet demand; principally because the JPoS is full or staff occupied with existing patients. At present, this will likely be because of:

- A spike in demand above the median rate used to calculate demand for JPoS
- Slow vacation of the JPoS

In both cases we expect SLaM to resolve these at the time. A contingency needs to be in place to manage demand (both for space and staff).

The ongoing difficulties around AMHP provision will impact on timely vacation – particularly for those patients who are not resident on any of the SLaM boroughs. Whilst SLaM have a contingency in place, a coordinated approach by the local authorities would seem to be more helpful and resilient. The MPS appreciates the difficulties for the Local Authorities; however the JPoS offer is at the very least physically better than the current provision and as such must be better and safer than the status quo.

It is predictable that the new process will not function fluidly at its inception. A robust escalation policy needs to be agreed by all partners. For the police, and our responsibilities up to the handover at JPoS, this will mean having a clear contingency if waiting times are breached or JPoS is not available. The MPS is involved in a wider piece of work with SLaM around escalation of issues.

The MPS continues to support the JPoS as an improved provision from the current position which is untenable. A swift, appropriate and seamless street to suite process for those in crisis requiring s136 minimises risk and maximises welfare, safety and care. SLaM, the acute trusts and the local authorities can achieve this – JPoS has the potential to be a key element in it.

Nick Collins

Chief Inspector

On behalf of the police Borough Commanders for Southwark, Croydon, Lambeth and Lewisham.

30 September 2016



Metropolitan Police Service submission to the Place of Safety Joint Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee, 26 April 2016

The police are afforded an extraordinary power under s136 Mental Health Act 1983; to detain a person who is in need of **immediate** care **and** control from mental distress. There is not an equivalent power afforded to the police for those that are physically unwell. Those who are in crisis, to the extent that they need immediate care and control, are a medical emergency and need to be treated as such. Police, whilst trained in restraint and awareness of mental crisis, are not trained as medical practitioners.

This means that access to trained medical care should be completed as quickly as possible; with the involvement of police minimised for both the health and dignity of the patient.

The Metropolitan Police Service has become increasingly worried about the provision of health facilities through which care can be quickly accessed for those in need and detained under s136. SLAM is fully conversant with these concerns, which form part of the Crisis Care Concordat.

SLAM offers an increasingly effective Street Triage scheme, giving officers advice on how to deal with a situation where they may need to consider s136. Ideally this will be an alternative pathway; often this will mean using s136. Its success has been in keeping the level of s136 use static in the four SLAM boroughs, whilst other areas have continued to rise. It is notable that SLAM still has the highest levels of s136 use in London. For Southwark and Lambeth this meant around approx. 100 s136 for the calendar year 2015. Croydon and Lewisham have similar levels. Each borough is already looking at higher levels this year.

The MPS recognises that police custody should only be used for those detained under s136 in truly exceptional circumstances. With the support of SLAM, it has very rarely been used on the four SLAM boroughs; and only when all accessible health care provision has been unavailable.

The only provision on each borough for s136 detentions is a dedicated 136 suite; A&E consistently refuse to accept those detained under s136. However, the 136 suites are not permanently staffed, and in some cases are not fit for purpose. Frequently the staff required to run the 136 suite are unavailable, or a suite is put out of action through damage. Whilst the Street Triage team will try to find another available s136 suite, the volume in the four boroughs means that unavailability is a real risk for any s136 detention.

During the period January 2015 through to March 2016, the Trust was unable to provide any place of safety to the Police on 72 occasions. This has been caused by all suites being occupied or a mixture of some suites being closed and some occupied.

The largest single factor which has led to closures has been the availability of staff.

The current difficulties in the London Ambulance Service means that the majority of those detained are transported by police van; despite this being against both MPS policy and the Concordat.

It is not unusual for someone detained to be held in the back of a police van for a number of hours whilst a s136 suite is found. This is not acceptable.

The MPS therefore supports improvements that speed up the access to appropriate health care, minimising the amount of time in detention by the police, improving health outcomes and dignity.

**Not protectively marked**

The combined place of safety offers a number of advantages:

- 24 hour dedicated staffing; with staff recruited directly for this role providing specialism and consistency.
- Four PoS beds, with 2 high dependency beds. Flexibility to deal with CAMHS.
- A new facility designed specifically for the task, minimising the likelihood of damage.
- The Maudlsey (and KCH) has a dedicated police officer post to support the suite.

Given the daily volumes on each borough it is unlikely that the whole suite will be unavailable – meaning that a detained person can quickly access the place of safety without delay. The process of initial assessment through Street Triage, through detention, onward briefing by Street Triage to the dedicated, specialist s136 team waiting to accept the person in crisis is very attractive. It minimises risk, and maximises health outcomes and dignity. This is dependant on that permanent team being available to respond immediately to a notified s136 through Street Triage, with a capacity to surge extra staff at periods of high demand.

Both Croydon and Lewisham police recognise that the location increases the travelling time for the detained person and their officers. However both feel that the benefits, particularly in the reduction in unavailability/delays, outweigh this concern.

The police in each of the four SLaM boroughs have been involved in the planning process. There are several areas that still require reassurance and agreement:

- The combined s136 suite is dedicated solely to s136. To use it as spare bed capacity, including following a s135 assessment or Mental Capacity Act admission, would severely detract from the advantages of having a combined suite.
- If the combined suite is at capacity, then SLaM will commit to finding alternative provision.
- We anticipate that each borough will utilise the A&E serving their area for those under s136 requiring physical health care; this needs to be formally agreed by SLaM and the acute trusts.
- Transportation remains a significant concern; LAS continue to have limited a capacity. A police van is not acceptable transport either from the street or other health care setting (including A&E).
- The pathway between A&E and SLaM continues to be a weakness. In particular, the provision of care, assessment and transport for those in crisis requiring physical treatment. This requires agreement between SLaM, the acute trusts, and LAS.
- Clarity on transportation home by SLaM for those leaving the suite following assessment who may well be vulnerable.
- Some design issues, including provision of a secure area if there is a delay in entering the suite; allowing those detained some space, particularly in summer.

These have been raised through the planning meetings, and we expect to resolve them with SLaM.

Nick Collins

Chief Inspector

On behalf of the police Borough Commanders for Southwark, Croydon, Lambeth and Lewisham.

21 April 2016

## Place of Safety Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-17**

### AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

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Cllr Jasmine Ali, Southwark reserve members		<b>Dated: September 2016</b>	
Cllr Paul Fleming, Southwark reserve member			
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Tom White, Southwark Pensioners' Action Group			
Jay Strickland, Southwark Adult Social Care Director			
Timothy Andrew & John Bardens (Lewisham scrutiny leads)			
Elaine Carter (Lambeth scrutiny lead)			
June Haynes (Croydon scrutiny lead)			
Southwark Borough Commander via email			
Lambeth Borough Commander			
Croydon Borough Commander			
Lewisham Borough Commander			