Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons During Detention: Preventing Deaths in Police Custody

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Tuesday 3rd November 2015
10:15am – 4:30pm
Grange Wellington Hotel, 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.
Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons During Detention:
Preventing Deaths in Police Custody

Overview
Deaths in or following police custody is a highly sensitive and controversial issue that has a significant impact on communities' trust and confidence in the police. In the last decade a number of high profile cases have focused public and media attention on the subject, particularly the police treatment of ethnic minority men, and have provoked long-term campaigns centred on allegations of racism, neglect, ill-treatment and police misconduct.

Statistics published by the IPCC in July 2015 indicate that despite deaths in or following police custody being at their lowest in a decade in 2013-14, they are now at their highest in five years: there were 17 deaths in or following police custody over the past year and 69 apparent suicides. The IPCC highlighted its concerns that, as in previous years, mental health disorders and links to alcohol or drugs were common factors in a large number of deaths.

Underlining its commitment to preventing deaths in police custody, in July 2015 the Government announced a major independent review into serious incidents that occur in custody in England and Wales. The review will examine procedures and processes in the lead-up to deaths, the immediate aftermath and the subsequent investigation, inquest and judicial process. It will also assess whether police officers properly understand mental health issues and are properly trained, the availability and effectiveness of appropriate healthcare, the use of restraint techniques and the risk of suicides in the first 48 hours of detention. The Home Secretary outlined that the review will consider the safety and welfare of all those in the police custody environment, including detainees and police officers and staff, and whether more can be done to reduce the risk of serious incidents occurring. The College of Policing are also due to shortly publish revised authorised professional practice on detention and custody.

The Government has sought to address the number of people with mental health illnesses that are taken to custody, including responding to the findings of HMIC’s inspection of the welfare of vulnerable people including children in custody, published in March 2015. In May 2015, building on the £25 million invested in liaison and diversion services at police stations and courts last year, the Government pledged £15 million of new funding to help to ensure that no person with mental health problems is detained in a police cell due to the lack of a health-based alternative.

This special symposium provides an invaluable opportunity for police and custody officers, health and social care providers, contractors and other key stakeholders to examine how standards of care within custody can be further improved and how to ensure the safety and wellbeing of people with mental health problems when suffering a crisis.

"Police custody is the place where a number of dynamics meet. It is the place where dangerous and difficult criminals are rightly locked-up, where officers and staff regularly face violent, threatening and abusive behaviour, and where the police use some of their most sensitive and coercive powers. But it is also a place where all too often vulnerable people, often those with mental health problems, are taken because there is no other place to go... Thankfully, deaths and serious incidents in custody are rare. No one – least of all police officers – wants such incidents to happen, and I know everyone involved takes steps to avoid them. But when such incidents do occur, every single one represents a failure – and has the potential to undermine dramatically the relationship between the public and the police."

- Home Secretary, July 2015

Why Attend?

✓ Assess how to better identify and monitor vulnerable detainees and those suffering a mental health crisis
✓ Discuss how to strengthen multi-agency working in order to divert vulnerable people away from custody to a place where they can be cared for, including developing joint-protocols and sharing information effectively
✓ Explore how to improve the police training and ensure latest guidance in effective care of detainees is adhered to
✓ Consider how to build public trust in the police through greater transparency and accountability and robust investigations

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 (EIPPT)
- Drug and Alcohol Teams (DAATs)
- Drug Intervention Programmes (DIPs)
- Health Commissioners
- Local Health Board
- Social Workers
- Disability Practitioners
- Care Managers
- Residential Care Services
- Community Care Workers
- Regulatory Bodies
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Central Government and Agencies

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/
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 ‘Near Misses’
      • The National Picture – Responding to the Findings of the HMIC’s Inspection, Latest Figures from the IPCC and the Latest Policy and Funding Developments
      • Managing the Safe and Decent Delivery of Custody – Ensuring Use of Force is Proportionate, Detention Appropriate, PACE Adhered to and Custodies Well-Staffed
      • Improving Police Responses – Training in First Aid, the Correct Use of Restraints, inc. During Transportation, and Dealing Effectively with Complications if they Arise
      • Strengthening Transparency and Accountability – Building Public Trust by Ensuring Deaths are Reported, Recorded, Investigated, Lessons are Learned and Families Supported
      • Identifying and Monitoring Vulnerable Detainees – Conducting Robust and Frequent Risk Assessments, Recording and Communicating Detainees’ Condition to Staff
      • Strengthening Multi-Agency Working between Police, Health Providers and Contractors to Improve Information Sharing and Develop Joint Protocols
11:15  Morning Refreshments
11:30  Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One
12:30  Networking Lunch
13:30  Panel Session Two: Ensuring the Safe Handling and Detention of Vulnerable Persons in Police Custody - Providing Support and Protection During a Mental Health Crisis
      • Understanding and Safeguarding Detainees with Mental Health Needs or at Risk of Suicide/Sehf Harm, Training Staff in Suicide Prevention and Mental Illness
      • Fast-Tracking Assessments for Vulnerable Individuals and Diverting them to Alternative 'Places of Safety'
      • Providing Detainees With Access to Health and Social Care Services Appropriate to their Mental and Physical Needs including Emergency Medical Care and Medication
      • Equipping Every Police Custody Suite Have Access to a Liaison and Diversion Service, Transferring the Commissioning and Budgetary Responsibility for Healthcare to the NHS
      • Ensuring Detainees are Properly Risk Assessed as Part of Pre-Release and that Appropriate Steps are Taken to Refer them to Other Services and Ensure their Safe Handover to Relatives, Carers or Professionals
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:  Tuesday 3rd November 2015
Time:  10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue:  Grange Wellington Hotel, London

Forthcoming Events

Mental Health and Young People: The Next Steps in Suicide Prevention
27th October 2015
The Role of Local Authorities in Addressing Alcohol Misuse
28th October 2015

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