

In relation to partnership working between Essex Police and EPUT, several measures to improve and develop working practices between Essex Police and EPUT have been initiated since Jayden's death in October 2020. These measures have been put in place to ensure continuous improvements to the single agency and joint responses from both organisations, to better safeguard the public.

These measures are detailed below.

1. The Senior Partnership Mental Health Board, chaired by an Essex Police Assistant Chief Constable and attended by the CEO of EPUT. This allows for the most senior level of discussions, and to discuss system pressures and new ideas.

2. At a strategic level, a Mental Health Risk Management Board has been created. This board is co-chaired by a Senior Essex Police officer and the Director of Adult Social Care in Essex County Council. This strategic forum discusses areas concerning mental ill health across Essex, and is attended by senior representatives across the health care system, as well as representatives from BTP. Examples of areas regularly scrutinised are section 135 Mental Health Act backlogs, bed availability and firearms backlogs. The Board also identifies and tackles the agencies' demands, blockers and enablers. Additionally, a multi-agency policy in relation to sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act has been drafted by EPUT, supported by Essex Police, which enables all agencies to understand their roles when it comes to managing these issues, as well as escalation processes that will apply. This policy was put in place in December 2022.

3. Essex Police's Strategic Vulnerability Centre is a department that oversees and co-ordinates the force's activity across a number of areas of vulnerability. It includes non-operational thematic strands relating to missing persons and Mental Health. Through the work of the Strategic Vulnerability Centre:
 - a. the new National Police Chief's Council 'Advice to Police Forces on Restricted Patients under S37 and S41 Mental Health Act 1983 who

Abscond', received in January 2023, has been shared internally with Essex Police and with other relevant agencies/organisations.

- b. This team are also working towards the implementation of 'The multi-agency response for adults missing from health and care settings - A national framework for England'. This is collaborative guidance produced by the Home Office, NPCC, and the Missing Persons charity. The team held a multi-agency collaborative conference in September 2022 with Essex Local Authorities, local Integrated Care Boards, and third sector organisations and achieved buy-in to a Task & Finish group looking at how to roll out this framework in Essex.
4. Essex Police force growth resulted in the creation of a new dedicated Mental Health Team in November 2022. This team is positioned within the Strategic Vulnerability Centre. The team has an establishment of an Inspector, a Sergeant, a police staff supervisor, 2 Constables and 3 police support staff. This team has a holistic overview of mental ill health from a policing perspective within Essex and works with EPUT in partnership to improve and develop working practices and compliance with service level agreements. The intention of the team is to achieve a reduction in existing numbers of section 135 MHA warrants, improvements in the multi-agency response to section 136 MHA assessments, improved information sharing, reducing instances of violence in health care settings, and having multi-agency tactical plans in place for individuals at higher risk of causing serious violence.
5. This ongoing work is supported and facilitated by regular meetings between the Mental Health Team Inspector and EPUT equivalent in which operational areas of concern are discussed which allows for closer partnership working and early resolution of issues.
6. Essex Police representatives also now attend the twice daily bed management call to discuss ongoing demands and understand the day's system pressures.

7. Additionally, Essex Police assisted EPUT with amendments to the current Information Sharing Agreement so that it incorporated more partner agencies to cover a broader spectrum. This now includes information-sharing in relation to individuals with indicators of serious violence and homicide, as well as individuals of concern who are being discharged from health care. This enables the identification of risk and for a multi-agency discussion to be held, where a tactical plan can be put in place to mitigate the risk of harm to the public.

8. The Strategic Vulnerability Centre also work with a retired police superintendent, who is works at EPUT in a role that includes being tactical liaison between both organisations. As part of this role the individual has created advice and guidance for EPUT staff particularly when explaining how to report a missing person to police and how to articulate their concerns about risk in language that is consistent with police terminology and more easily understandable. This will do much to address your concern outlined in your report about miscommunication and assumptions that language is used the same way by different services.

9. The Strategic Vulnerability Centre also co-ordinates and encourages internal Essex Police communications and messaging in relation to these areas, through publishing of relevant guidance and best practice. These internal communications include any lessons learnt with a regular focus on Mental Health and Missing Persons at least once a month.

10. At a more local level, Essex Police have embedded dedicated police liaison working within the Linden Centre in Chelmsford. This liaison role is resourced by a constable, with an Inspector providing a local strategic overview.
 - a. The role of the constable is to
 - i. assist in the early identification of potential operational issues and/or individuals of concern,
 - ii. facilitate the completion of enquiries/actions regarding ongoing police investigations

- iii. improve information-sharing and partnership-working between local officers and mental health staff, and
- iv. support mental health staff from a policing perspective.

- b. The Inspector role is one undertaken by a current operational officer in addition to their established post. This role provides local strategic support to the ongoing partnership liaison being conducted by the constable and involves
 - i. regular meetings with EPUT equivalents
 - ii. analysis of relevant data around crime and reports of missing persons, and
 - iii. ensuring that best practice and relevant joint policies and procedures are being complied with.

11. As detailed in the inquest, the investigation of Ms Booroff's complaint led to a recommendation for additional mental health training within Essex Police. Additional training has now been completed with frontline uniformed officers receiving specific training on the Mental Capacity Act and police powers, diversion through the Mental Health Street Triage team, and how better to deal with assaults within healthcare settings, as part of their continuous professional development. This training was delivered as part of Essex Police's ongoing training programme. A further continuous professional development training session was completed with officers/staff who would not have been able to access the training otherwise and this was recorded and stored on the force's relevant internal sharepoint page. Additionally, the force learning and development department are reviewing the current training package being provided to trainee officers/staff to ensure that it is up to date and contains the most recent guidance.

In light of the measures outlined above – and specifically at number 8 above – I hope that your concerns are allayed and that you are reassured that Essex Police have taken appropriate actions to ensure that our response is of the highest standard.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Constable