What Mental health training do frontline officers receive?

RESPONSE

South Wales Police is committed to providing a professional response to all Mental Health related incidents. The force employs four dedicated Mental Health Liaison Officers and a Mental Health Strategic Lead. The force has also made a significant investment in training in this area.

All Response and Roads Policing Officers have been trained in the College of Policing 2016, 2 day training programme, which is due to be rolled out to all non-response officers in December 2018 through to March 2019.

I have included the aims and objectives of the training together with details of the delivery in 2017 below:

First date for Response Training Days will be 25th May 2017 (thereafter fortnightly Thursday) until end September 2017.

Further planned role out to remaining identified staff/officers is estimated to take place from August onwards.

The College of Policing will be releasing an up-to-date National Centre for Applied Learning Technologies (NCALT) package and we are awaiting confirmation of date of release to coincide with legislative changes as a result of the Police and Crime Act 2017.

Day 1- Based on College of Policing Mental Health Guidance and Specialist input from HAFAL (Welsh Mental Health Charity):

Aims:

- An overview of mental health conditions
- To provide learners with the knowledge, understanding & communication skills to be able to offer support to a person who may be experiencing a mental health crisis
- Provides learners with the knowledge and understanding of their role and responsibilities when assisting a person experiencing suicidal ideation

Objectives:

- To recognise signs and symptoms of a person experiencing a mental health crisis
- To improve the communication skills when supporting a person experiencing a mental health crisis
- To provide learners with information on facts and myths associated with suicide
- Improve police officers’ response to a person with suicidal ideation.
- Identify risk factors which may make a person more at risk of suicide
- Identify supports with may provide help to a person with suicidal ideation

Continued....
Freedom of Information Request 1359/18

Day 2- Based on College of Policing Mental Health Guidance (Legislation) – this is still under development and awaiting ratification of the Police & Crime Act 2017:

Draft Aims:

• Ensure that learners understand s135 & s136 sections of the Mental Health Act 1983 and Mental Capacity Act along with the 5 statutory principles which apply in relation to the Mental Capacity Act 2005.
• Understand the relevant changes to s135 & s136 sections of the Mental Health Act 1983

Draft Objectives:

• Provide initial support to a person who may be experiencing mental health crisis.
• Outline the circumstances in which a first response officer may be asked to help enable the assessment of a person with mental health issues under the Mental Health Act 1983.
• Explain the role of the police in transporting someone with mental health issues.
• Explain the role of the police where a person with mental health issues goes missing.
• Identify circumstances in which a first response officer should use the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in order to detain someone and not the Mental Health Act 1983
• Describe what to consider when determining whether it is appropriate to prosecute someone or divert them from the criminal justice system.

In addition to this police officers are recommended to complete the NCALT Mental Health Training outlined below.

New student officers also receive this training and have inputs suitable for their role.

A Mental Health Assessment will be mandated in the near future; until then it is recommended that Police Officers, Specials, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Public Facing Police Staff familiarise themselves with the below courses.

- Mental Health: Incident in a Hospital
- Mental Health: Incident in a Public Place
- Mental Health: Incident on Private Premises
- Mental Health: Legislation
- Mental Health: Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Mental Health: Victims with Learning Disabilities