

## Mental health nurses staff UK police stations

7th January, 2014



The UK government has announced a pilot scheme to help mentally ill people who have been arrested by the police. Mental health nurses will work in police stations in 10

different regions across England. The aim is to identify those with mental health issues as early as possible so they receive the correct treatment. The UK's Care and Support minister Norman Lamb explained: "Diverting the individual away from offending, and helping to reduce the risk of more victims suffering due to further offences benefits everyone." The minister in charge policing, Damian Green, said: "Police officers should be focused on fighting crimes, and people with mental health conditions should get the care they need as early as possible."

The pilot project could have a big impact on how the UK's police force uses personnel and resources. Police officers currently spend up to 25 per cent of their time dealing with suspected offenders with mental health problems. This is the equivalent of around 26,000 officers. Paul Jenkins of the charity Rethink Mental Illness welcomed the new initiative. He said: "All too often, the way our criminal justice system deals with people with mental health problems leads to poor outcomes for individuals, frustration from police officers...and others." He added: "This initiative has the potential to stop people going unnecessarily to prison, reduce reoffending rates and save millions in taxpayers' money."

Sources: Sky News / Express.co.uk

### Writing

More mental health professionals should work in police stations. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*pilot schemes / arrested / nurses / mental health issues / risk / policing / fighting crime / big impact / personnel / suspected offenders / initiative / frustration / taxpayers*

### True / False

- The UK is training mental health workers as police officers. T / F
- The pilot scheme is being trialled in all of England's police stations. T / F
- The UK police want to spot people with mental health problems earlier. T / F
- The scheme aims to cut the number of victims suffering from crime. T / F
- UK police officers use up to 25% of their time in mental health training. T / F
- A mental health charity was happy with the new scheme. T / F
- The charity said the current situation is frustrating for police officers. T / F
- The new scheme will cost taxpayers more money. T / F

### Synonym Match

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. pilot      | a. care         |
| 2. scheme     | b. effect       |
| 3. regions    | c. project      |
| 4. treatment  | d. cut          |
| 5. focused    | e. trial        |
| 6. impact     | f. approach     |
| 7. currently  | g. concentrated |
| 8. initiative | h. presently    |
| 9. potential  | i. areas        |
| 10. reduce    | j. possibility  |

### Discussion – Student A

- What springs to mind when you hear the term 'mental health'?
- What do you think about the UK's new scheme?
- What do people study to become a mental health nurse?
- What treatment do you think people in police stations might get?
- Should more money be spent helping people with mental health problems?
- Do you ever worry about your mental health?
- "Mental health needs a great deal of attention. It's the final taboo and it needs to be faced and dealt with." (Adam Ant) What do you think?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. a pilot                             | a. of more victims suffering |
| 2. 10 different regions                | b. justice system            |
| 3. identify those with                 | c. on fighting crimes        |
| 4. reduce the risk                     | d. across England            |
| 5. focused                             | e. to stop people            |
| 6. a big impact on how the UK's police | f. in taxpayers' money       |
| 7. dealing                             | g. scheme                    |
| 8. criminal                            | h. with suspected offenders  |
| 9. This initiative has the potential   | i. mental health issues      |
| 10. save millions                      | j. force uses personnel      |

## Discussion – Student B

- What are mental health problems?
- Are you surprised at the number of suspected offenders with mental health problems?
- What is the care like for people with mental health in your country?
- Do you think the new initiative will lead to a reduction in crime?
- Mental health is often missing from public health debates even though it's critical to wellbeing. (Diane Abbott) What do you think?
- What everyday things can affect our mental health?
- What questions would you like to ask a mental health expert?

## Spelling

- ancoendun a pilot scheme
- in 10 different nsegori
- tiyfnde those with mental health issues
- Diverting the uilladdvni away from offending
- victims suffering due to further fcsnfeoe
- officers should be ucdosfe on fighting crimes
- peelnonrs and resources
- the aiqltnueve of around 26,000 officers
- welcomed the new iniiaevtit
- criminal isjecut system
- poor uomecst
- people going nrecylsinesua to prison

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. c	3. i	4. a	5. g
6. b	7. h	8. f	9. j	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – Hacking

You think hacking is the crime that's most important to fight. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not as bad about their crimes. Also, tell the others which of these is the least important to fight (and why): speeding, vandalism or financial fraud.

### Role B – Speeding

You think speeding is the crime that's most important to fight. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not as bad about their crimes. Also, tell the others which of these is the least important to fight (and why): hacking, vandalism or financial fraud.

### Role C – Vandalism

You think vandalism is the crime that's most important to fight. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not as bad about their crimes. Also, tell the others which of these is the least important to fight (and why): speeding, hacking or financial fraud.

### Role D – Financial fraud

You think financial fraud is the crime that's most important to fight. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not as bad about their crimes. Also, tell the others which of these is the least important to fight (and why): speeding, vandalism or hacking.

## Speaking - Crimes

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the ones police should focus on most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| • hacking       | • burglary                  |
| • shoplifting   | • vandalism                 |
| • speeding      | • assault                   |
| • selling drugs | • stock market manipulation |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.