Sec 136 – The Impact of Introducing an NHS Place of Safety

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Content of Presentation

- Gloucestershire POS history
- Local research - pre-Maxwell Suite
- The Maxwell Suite Evaluation – 5 years of running a health based POS; 2009-13
- What we have learned
Gloucestershire Characteristics

- Population 605,654
- Numbers of 85+ living alone rising fast
- High quality diverse & historic environment, a rural/urban mix
- BME 4.3% of population, plus 3.1% ‘White-other’
- Diverse population extremes of affluence & deprivation
- Life expectancy varies, 84.4 for women in Cotswolds to 78 for men in Gloucester City
- County Council, 6 District Councils & 264 parish/town councils
- 6 MPs
Place of Safety

In the beginning there was Coney Hill Hospital
Place of Safety

Next was there was the police cell
Criteria for a Health POS

- Available 24 hrs a day
- Easily accessible from the main population centres
- ‘Neutral’ non-stigmatising setting
- Suitable for rare occasions when there is an extended period of stay
- Comfortable and safe
- Adequately staffed with access to extra staff in the case of behavioural disturbance
Place of Safety

Now there is the Maxwell Suite (+ police cell)
Local S136 Research

1. Use of Sec 136 in Gloucestershire during 2003-2006 (MSL, 2010)

2. Responses of different professional groups to use of S136 in Glos (MSL, 2011)

3. Detainee & carer perspective (MSL, 2011)

4. Setting up a health based POS in Glos (JPIC 2009)

5. Evaluation of a health based POS (Maxwell Suite) in Glos (submitted to MSL 2014)
Key findings on use of Sec 136 in Glos (2002 – 2006)

- An average of 192 detentions a year (176-203), 32.6 per 100k population
- In contrast to other studies BME over-representation only marginal for Afro-Caribbean males, 94% detainees white
- 1/3rd admitted

- Acts of self harm common (55%) in contrast to acts/threats of violence (28%)
- Evidence of intoxification low (16%)
- 58% male, 42% female
- Commonest age range 35-44 yrs
- Busiest period 18.00 – 24.00 hrs
- 9% repeat detainees
Attitudes & Beliefs of Professional Groups

**Method:** Semi-structured questionnaire to key professional groups, followed up by Focus Groups (response rate of 59% n= 223/378):

**Who:**
- A&E Drs and Nurses
- Approved Social Workers
- Police Operational Officer & Custody Sergeants
- Section 12 Drs
- Mental Health Nurses
- Forensic Physicians
Do you think there should be an alternative to the Police Station as the only POS?

Yes or No agreement

Percentage

Yes

No

Police Custody
Police Operational
A&E Dr
A&E Nurses
Forensic Physicians
Sec 12 Drs
ASW's
Mental Health Nurses

Joined up care
More than just a number’ – views of S136 detainees

- 204 Subjects of 136 between Jan 06 – July 07
- Total number invited to participate:
  - Detainees: 190
    - Known to MHS: 86 (49%)
    - N/K to MHS: 104 (51%)
- Total number interviewed: 18
  - Known to MHS: 7
  - N/K to MHS: 11
- Total number of carers interviewed: 6
- Participant characteristics:
  - Gender: 44% male (8) 56% female (10)
  - Age: 22 – 70 years, highest modal range 41-50 years – 40% (n=7)
  - Ethnicity: White British
Detainees’ experiences in a cell

- Treated as a criminal - ‘I was handcuffed and put in a police van and taken straight from the van into the cells. I was terrified.’

- Emotional distress - ‘Not a nice place to stay, I didn’t feel safe, it almost felt like I was being punished for having a mental illness, as if I wasn’t allowed to feel depressed.’

- Lack of attention to medical needs
- Lack of provision of info to detainees & carers
- Vulnerability/risk - ‘I was very upset; everyone keeps telling me I am an alcoholic. I don’t think I have a mental disorder, but I knew I had a drink problem, I got to the stage where I thought no-one cares about me.’
## S136 Detentions in Gloucestershire
**February 2009 – December 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total number of Section 136 Detentions</th>
<th>Maxwell Centre as sole POS</th>
<th>Police cells as sole POS</th>
<th>Transfers between POS’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009*</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>49**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>31***</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1818</strong></td>
<td><strong>1290</strong></td>
<td><strong>253</strong></td>
<td><strong>275</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total of 1818 detentions = a mean figure of 31.8 per month(range 12-39)

Maxwell Centre alone = 1290, including transfers = 1565

Total passing through police cells = 528

* 11 months data
** 11 months data for this figure (49)
*** 11 mths data (missing January)
S136 Detentions

Number of Detentions

Year

S136 detentions per year in Gloucestershire 2009-2013 by POS and including transfers
Why the 60% increase?

1) A reflection of national trends?

2) Social & political factors – reduced tolerance of odd or risky behaviour in public?

3) The opening of the Maxwell Suite?
POS Detentions & Transfers 2009 - 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maxwell Centre</td>
<td>82.1%</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
<td>85.2%</td>
<td>96.9%</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Cells</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local S136 Policy on use of Police Cells

- Unmanageably violent or may become so, or

- No NHS POS is available (e.g. Centre is full), or

- Where the person concerned is under the influence of alcohol or drugs to the extent that they are not fit for assessment
Key Demographic & Detention Data

- 55.3% male
- Age range under 16 yrs – over 65 with most frequent age band 35-44 yrs (21.1%)
  - 6.3% under 18 & 1.3% under 16 yrs
  - 3.4% over 65 yrs
- Marginal over-representation of Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (1.7% vs 0.9%)

- Mean duration of detention – 4.4 hrs with mean time in Maxwell Suite 3.9 hrs
- 42.4 % detained ‘out of hours’ between 17.00 – 09.00 & 27.4% at wk end
- 28.2% admitted to hospital 14.2 % informally
- 57.1 % discharged with no follow up
Repeat Detainees 2014 (3mths)

- 94 detentions in the 1st 3 mths of 2014 with 20 previously detained:
  - 10 once
  - 7 three times
  - 4 more than 6 times & all known to services

- So, 31% of the 94 detentions created by 4 detainees with more than 6 detentions each
- Only 20% of the 20 were male
- All seven detained more than 3 times were female with a diagnosis of PD
Outcomes

- Whilst number of S136 rises the % further detained is falling
- Glos: 28% admitted to hospital; 14.2% informal & 13.9% under MHA
- 42.9% required hospital care or follow-up so over 50% did not require specialist MH intervention
- Ethical issue of deprivation of liberty + use of scarce MH resources?
Other Issues

- Young People
- MCA
- Conveying
- Staffing
What have we learned?

- Emphasis on research & evidence based practice
- Put subjects of S136 at centre
- Engage commissioners
- Develop key stakeholder allies
- CJS/Health & Social Care Forum
- Monitor/review
- Persistence!
Thank you for listening