

Support, not prison, for vulnerable people affected by mental ill health in Greater Manchester

Instead of being put into a jail cell, vulnerable people in police custody can now access the right support, in the right place, at the right time, thanks to Greater Manchester's integrated custody healthcare and liaison and diversion service.

At set points within the criminal justice system – in police custody, at court, or when preparing to return to the community – detainees are assessed by healthcare nurses or trained liaison and diversion staff, and vulnerable individuals affected by issues such as mental ill health, homelessness, or learning disabilities, are helped to access appropriate support as soon as possible.

The service diverts vulnerable people away from the criminal justice system and into the hands of services better able to tackle the root causes of their behaviour and reduce reoffending. We use a whole system approach which allows us to better meet the complex health and social care needs of this vulnerable population.

Jointly commissioned by Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership, this project is just one of many that has been put together to support our police and crime plan: *Standing Together – Greater Manchester's plan for safer, stronger communities* along with the delivery of 'Taking Charge' GMs plan to transform our health and social care services.

“While keeping the public safe is the number one priority, it's clear that a custody cell or prison is not always the right place for vulnerable people, such as veterans, homeless people, or people with learning disabilities.

“The criminal justice system doesn't solve their problems and doesn't put a stop their behaviour. Too often their actions are directly linked to problems in other areas of their life – a disruption in taking prescribed medication, problems managing debt, alcohol addiction, housing problems. These are the issues that need resolving.”

Baroness Beverley Hughes
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor
for Policing and Crime

Jon Rouse
Chief Officer
Greater Manchester Health and Social
Care Partnership



in Greater Manchester

