

**The Leicestershire Criminal Justice Mental Health and Learning Disabilities
Liaison and Diversion Service
Briefing Document.**

This service covers Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland(LLR).

It aims to provide an effective interface between Mental Health and the Criminal Justice Services.

It achieves this by making Mental Health Nurses employed by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust(LPT), available to assess people in the criminal justice system in Custody suites, at Probation offices and at Courts.

It will soon expand to encompass people who have not been arrested but who have been interviewed voluntarily about offences.

It is closely linked to the Mental Health Triage car project which is also a collaboration between LPT and the Police.

It will:-

- Provide a streamlined path into treatment where it is needed
- Provide referral or liaison pathways to treatment and support providers where this is appropriate.
- Risk assess service users and assist partner agencies to manager the risks identified.
- Facilitate appropriate information sharing between Health and Criminal Justice Agencies.
- Collate and disseminate performance indicator information and analyse the project data to support the development of strategy locally and nationally.

The purpose of this is to achieve the following Aims and Objectives.

Service Aims

- To improved access to healthcare and support services and a reduction in health inequalities for vulnerable individuals with mental health and learning difficulties.
- To divert individuals, where appropriate, out of the youth and criminal justice systems into health, social care or other supportive services
- To deliver efficiencies within the youth and criminal justice systems
- To reduce re-offending or escalation of offending behaviours

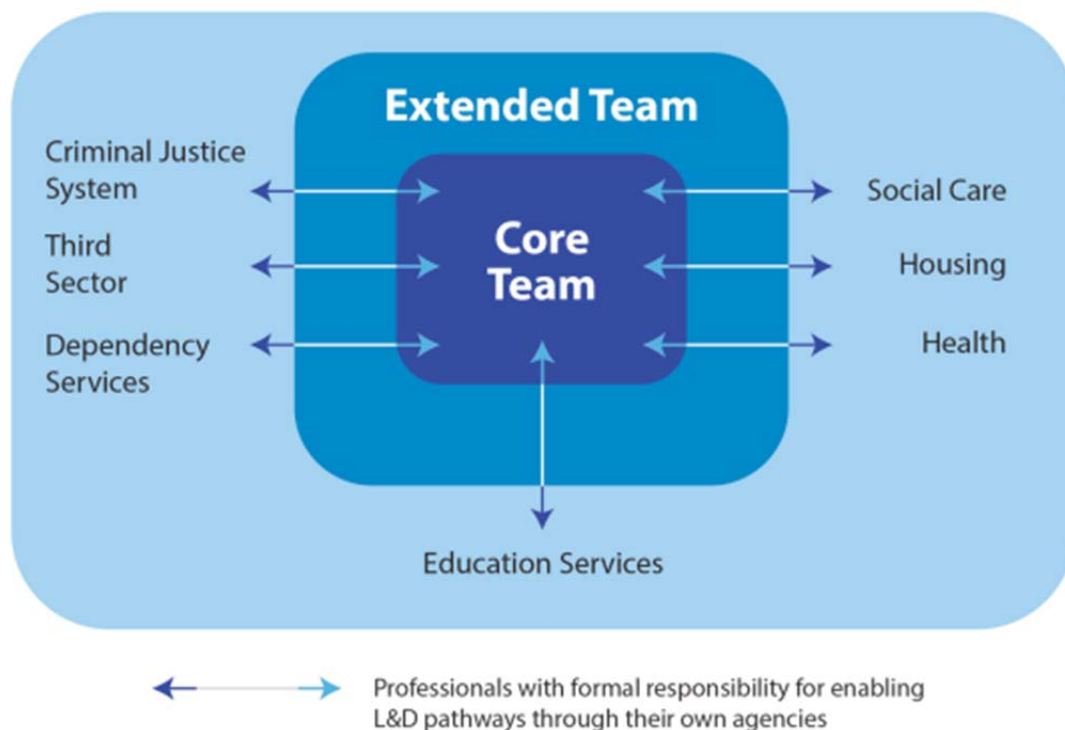
Service Objectives

- To provide an exemplary and comprehensive screening and multi-disciplinary assessment service for all eligible referred individuals
- To operate within a robust clinical operating framework

- To provide high quality information to key decision makers in youth and criminal justice agencies, including the police, courts, probation and Youth Offending Teams (YOTs)
- To secure referrals into mainstream health and social care services and other relevant interventions and support services
- To follow up individuals with health and social care service providers, to ensure that individuals continue to engage with treatment until an appropriate discharge point is reached

Service Model

This Service is part of a National trial which is developing best practice in 10 locations in preparation for a national roll out by 2017. The following diagram represents the model the trials are developing.



It depicts a core team of dedicated staff who assess people in the criminal justice system and who then divert them or ensure that they receive appropriate support. The extended team are the wider range of professionals drawn from a broad range of partner organisations, whose roles are not specific to liaison and diversion but are essential to effective liaison and diversion practice.

The core team comprises a dedicated team of professional and contains

- Management of the project
- Mental Health Professionals embedded with other services
- Adult liaison and diversion practitioners
- Children and young people liaison and diversion practitioners
- Learning disability practitioner
- Speech and language therapist

- Support time and recovery workers
- Administrators

The liaison and diversion Core practitioners are already conducting the following activities.

Clinical

- Screening
- Triage
- Holistic psycho-social assessment
- Facilitate specialist assessment

Liaison

- Informing decision making (Including Police, YOS , CPS and Courts)
- Providing Written reports
- Providing input to pre-sentence reports
- Advice on making reasonable adjustments
- Information exchange with community services
- Referrals to existing care teams or to additional services
- Appropriate health promotion
- Informing and mobilising multi-agency care
- Liaising with family and carers
- Short term intervention
- Data collection and monitoring
- Follow up for both health and CJS outcomes
- Equalities monitoring

To do this Mental Health Nurses are now based in Police Custody suites, Probation offices, and at Courts.

The service assesses people passing through the criminal justice system at the earliest opportunity. The assessment tools are inclusive of age and assist to identify relevant issues for more detailed assessment on referral. They also assess the risks and guide Core practitioners to assist the person into the most appropriate pathway for them.

The Mental Health Triage Car

LPT and the Police also manage the Mental Health Triage Car Service which is designed to intervene before arrest and to reduce the number of people detained for mental health assessments. An experienced Police officer and a specially trained Mental Health Nurse crew a Police vehicle together. They have access to the IT systems of both the Police and the NHS. They can advise police officers who are deployed to incidents involving Mental Health issues or Learning Disabilities and attend to assist them if necessary. They are able to use their combined powers and knowledge to interpret the information available and to assess the risk at incidents. They can advise officers and have regularly been able to ensure the most appropriate outcome is achieved.

Outcomes

The Liaison and Diversion scheme operated in a very similar format during the year 2013/14 and was revised to fit the pilot service model in April 2014. The Triage car is now in its second year of operational activity.

So far the following results have been achieved.

- The service model has been in place and operational since 1st April 2014. The first quarter performance information is now being analysed.
- A small number of people have been diverted out of the criminal justice system to receive ongoing treatment for serious mental health conditions.
- The service has identified some people who have claimed to have mental health issues. Assessment has provided evidence that this was not a factor in the behaviour which resulted in a crime. They have therefore continued in the criminal justice system as normal.
- The majority of people have continued on the Criminal Justice pathway with increased support and with referrals in place to appropriate treatment services. The risks appear to be better managed and decision makers are better informed.
- The triage car has significantly reduced the number of people detained using Police powers under section 136 of the Mental Health Act.
- Both services have discovered people with complex needs who have repeatedly used services and offended. They have been helped by case specific multiagency professionals meetings set up to better coordinate the agencies approach to them.
- The services have driven a significant improvement in the multiagency environment. Professionals have improved relations across agency boundaries and obtained a much better understanding of the different language, skills and legal powers available.

Development Areas

1. Meetings are planned to explore improvements to the service provided at The Magistrates courts. All parties need to be aware of the additional information and options the service can provide to the Magistrates and the best legal practice for achieving this.
2. The core team have developed most of the practical relationships required to liaise appropriately between professionals. However these relationships need to be extended and supported by a robust policy framework. This is now a strategic priority for LLR as it reviews the Mental Health Pathways and seeks to implement the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat.
3. The All age aspiration of the service is still developing. Discussions are ongoing to ensure that the existing YOS based service in Leicestershire is coordinated with the wider L & D service. Leicester City does not currently have a similar young person's L & D service but the current discussions aim to ensure that appropriate liaison and diversion pathways can still be identified.