COLLABORATIVE POLICE AND NURSING INTERVENTIONS AND EDUCATION TO SUPPORT THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS: A COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE REVIEW

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Practice and Academic Background

- Clinical Nurse Specialist Problematic Substance Use.
- Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adolescent Health
- Police Custody Suite Practitioner.
- Adult Protection Co-ordinator, Grampian Police.
- Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing, Robert Gordon University
**Introduction**

Contact between police and those with complex mental health disorders has greatly increased over the past decade.

Reasons given for this include de-institutionalisation, changing drug and alcohol trends and the reduced availability and utilisation of health services.

Police officers play an important role in the health care management of this group yet often feel ill-equipped to do so, believe this is not part of their role as law-enforcers, extremely costly for police services and often go unrecognised.
Identified gaps in practice

- A cyclical police/health system does not effectively support engagement, protection or continuation of treatment, particularly in relation to co-morbidity.
- Costly interventions for both police and health services
- Costly re-stabilisation process for NHS following custody presentation
- Risks on release of overdose or re-offending
- Sets up challenging working environment - custody, emergency services, operational police

Aims

Sharing key findings from a literature review exploring international and UK police and nursing approaches to practice and education in the care of those with complex mental health needs.

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Method
- A broad literature search of published work: search strategy involved CINHAL, Medline, Psychinfo, Business Source Premier, ASSIA.net
- Search concepts were mental health, substance misuse, interventions, and police. Additional hand searched materials were included. Papers were critically reviewed and inclusion and exclusion criteria applied.

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria
- 1980 onwards to bring historical perspective
- Worldwide. English language studies only
- People coming to the attention of the police including custody.
- Over 16 years of age
Professional challenges

- Officers view individuals in police care have reduced access to health service
- Police Officers frustrated by lack of service provision
- Some nurses views of working with this group can be challenged or reinforced by aggressive behaviours
- Nurses faced with dilemmas of confidentiality, pressure of bed and resource allocation
- Longstanding debate as to the most appropriate place of safety

Models of collaborative practice

- The most contemporary practice has been developed in the U.S, Canada and Australia
- Mental health nurses supporting training of Police officers to better understand the needs of this group.
- Collaborative Emergency response on ‘phone lines’
- Police Custody nursing
- Co-responder teams
- Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)
- Advancing nurse practice roles
Benefits of integrated, collaborative interventions and education

- Streamlined law enforcement and mental health service provision
- Rapid access to mental health assessment
- Faster response rates
- Reduction in officer injury and stress
- Removal of medical decision making for Officers
- Diversion from emergency health services
- Better use of resources and distribution of skills.
- Long term cost savings
- Reduced stigma
- Increased public satisfaction
- Advancing nurse practice

Advanced Nurse practice

Legislative changes, staff shortages and cost has developed new roles in the medico-legal field

- Forensic Nurse Examiner (Death scene, adult, child protection)
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
- Custody nurse practitioners
Consideration

- Integration of UK co-responder and crisis intervention teams
- Build inter-disciplinary relationships and common vision.
- Integrated Police and nursing training.
- Develop clinical conduits between services
- Expand forensic nurse education specific to custody and nurse examiner roles
- Universities and Police services supporting Police/nurse education

Application of these findings within Robert Gordon University and Grampian Police

- Mental Heath lecturer and clinician supporting operational police officer education – particularly in custody care.
- Virtual Police Custody Suite to support pre-registration mental health nurse and police inter-professional education
- Public Protection Inter-professional Education committee to further develop inter-professional practice education

Thank you
Literature supporting this work


