

Briefing Paper Crisis Care Concordat

The Crisis Care Concordat is a shared agreed statement, signed by senior representatives from all the organisations involved. It covers what needs to happen when people in mental health crisis need help – in policy making and spending decisions, in anticipating and preventing mental health crises wherever possible, and in making sure effective emergency response systems operate in localities when a crisis does occur

The Crisis Care Concordat is arranged around:

- Access to support before crisis point
- Urgent and emergency access to crisis care
- The right quality of treatment and care when in crisis
- Recovery and staying well, and preventing future crises

This Concordat expects that, in every locality in England, local partnerships of health, criminal justice and local authority agencies will agree and commit to local Mental Health Crisis Declarations. These will consist of commitments and actions at a local level that will deliver services that meet the principles of the national concordat

This Concordat serves as an important joint statement of intent and common purpose, and of agreement and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of each service. This will help to make sure people who need immediate mental health support at a time of crisis get the right services when they need them, and get the help they need to move on and stay well

In Berkshire we have agreed an action plan that commits all responsible organisations involved to sign up to and take responsibility to meet the agreed plan as outlined below:

- 1) Provide a safe early intervention and crisis resolution service in Berkshire
- 2) Provide a responsive Ambulance Response Time to those requiring transfers to psychiatric hospital
- 3) Improve access to support in primary care for mental health service users
- 4) To put in a place an improved emergency duty team to provide rapid response to those in mental health crisis
- 5) Improve CAMHS alternatives to admission and access to tier 4 beds in Berkshire
- 6) Improve ambulance response time for section 135 & 136 detentions
- 7) Improve training and guidance for Thames Valley Police on Mental Health, Mental Health Act & Mental Capacity Act 2005
- 8) Improve response time from community substance misuse team (DAAT) in Berkshire
- 9) Review Police use of places of safety under the Mental Health Act 1983 and results of local monitoring
- 10) Develop further alternatives to admission for mental health patients i.e. Yew Tree Lodge in Reading
- 11) Use of restraints
- 12) Partnership working – to monitor progress and planning future system improvements

Although the Crisis Care Concordat focuses on the responses to acute mental health crises, it also includes a section on prevention and intervention. The Concordat builds on and does not replace existing guidance. Current service provision should continue while the Action Plan is being developed in Berkshire.