Repeated Detention

Personality, Emergency Mental Health Care & Complex Needs Research Conference

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• Repeated detention, sometimes with very high frequency, has received little previous attention
• Noted in our original Section 136 in Sussex study that a third of detentions were people being repeatedly detained

...& Aim

To improve understanding of repeated detention, including:

- the size of the issue beyond Sussex?
- what needs could be better met to reduce repeat detentions?
Methods

• Lived experience interviews
  • People repeatedly detained
  • Members of Lighthouse Recovery Support

• National police survey
  & Local (Sussex, Surrey, Kent & Hampshire) collaboration

• Statistical analysis of Sussex detention data

Co-produced analyses with experts by experience in complex needs in emergency care
Findings

- Repeated detention is recognised around the country
- Services realise multi-agency work is essential
- Some promising practice involving the person in need in care planning

Crisis care (suicide intervention) is a crucial but short-term measure.

Addressing the unmet needs that cause suicidal crises has to become a bigger part of the picture.
What Next?

Changes to controversial police Mental Health Act powers may only be a sideways step

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Thank you

Any questions or comments

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