

## POLICE TRAINING AT THE LADYWELL UNIT.

### A JOINT INITIATIVE

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## WHY PROVIDE TRAINING TO POLICE?

- Improve relations
- Develop a relationship with officers attending the unit
- Give an understanding of largely misrepresented section of society
- To challenge perception
- To improve treatment of people in crisis needing to come to hospital via section 136

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## WHAT WAS THE AIM?

- IMPROVE RELATIONS
- Not to teach them to be MH professionals
- Mutual respect for roles
- Normalising Mental health issues
- Social Icons

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## DISPELLING MYTHS

- Challenging Perceptions
- Confronting Bias
- Changing Attitudes

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND THE MEDIA

### Beckham reveals his battle with obsessive disorder

By Maxine Frith, Social Affairs Correspondent  
Monday, 3 April 2006



**Bruno's fans rally as he faces his toughest fight**  
News.Scotsman.com  
- Thursday, 29th January 2009



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## MEDIA MISCONCEPTIONS

### Schizo's 82 stab Frenzy on dad

A DAD was stabbed 82 times in front of his children by a mentally-ill complete stranger, a court heard yesterday.

Published: 28 August 2008 – The Sun



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## HOW DID IT WORK?

- Senior staff in both services in contact to arrange training
- Offered to all new officers through the Lewisham police station
- Attendance for half a day to the Johnson PICU
- A chance to see the unit, 136 suite, and Ladywell as a whole and how service interact.
- Shared Learning
- Feedback and open discussion
- Experiences discussed

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## ITINERARY

### Police/Mental Health: A Shared Experience

#### Objectives for the morning:

1. To improve overall communication between the Police and Mental Health Services.
2. To explore common problems encountered between the Police and Mental Health Services.
3. To discuss ways to overcome such problems.
4. To have a better understanding of each other's roles and perspectives.
5. To have an understanding of the Ladywell Unit, its structure, facilities, resources and management hierarchy.
6. To have an understanding of how the Ladywell staff manage violence and aggression.
7. To provide the Police with some insight as to some common mental health problems that they may encounter whilst on duty.
8. To enable police officers to experience 'Hearing voices'

#### What we are not going to do!!

1. Patronise Police Officers
2. Tell you how wonderful we are and that the problem never lies with us.
3. Turn you all into 'Mini Psychiatrists'
4. Row about attitudes from either nursing staff or police officers
5. Make everything wrong...right
6. Answer all of your questions...in fact, this might raise more questions!!

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## ITINERARY

The Ladywell Unit: 'A psychiatric T.A.R.D.I.S'



**A beginning:** A Tour of the Ladywell Unit, covering PICU, Locality wards.

**Inside SLAM** (South London & Maudsley)

#### The Ladywell Unit:

**PICU** (Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit)  
136/Place of safety area PICU/MSU/Special  
Management of violence & aggression (alarms/radio/cctv/ascom/psts)

**Locality Wards Visits.** Catchment areas explained. Reason why called Locality Ward. Triage Visit ward - When/why police attending Blake suite – ECT: Reasons for it Discuss controversy (practical demonstration!)

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## What are we looking for when a person is brought to hospital?

Patients don't come to hospital with ready made Bar codes



Like the police, nurses carry out '**Detective work**' .....

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## PROGRAMME EVALUATION

- The Training Was Delivered To 364 OFFICERS Over A Period Of SIX MONTHS.**
- **Evaluation Forms Were Given To All 364 OFFICERS.**
- **280 Officers Returned Their Evaluation Forms**

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## PROGRAMME EVALUATION CONTINUED

- OF THE 280 FORMS RETURNED, 151 SAID THEY WERE VERY SATISFIED WITH THE TRAINING
- 127 SAID THEY WERE SATISFIED
- 2 SAID THEY WERE UNSATISFIED. THESE TWO SAID THAT DUE TO THE NATURE OF THEIR WORK THEY RARELY CAME INTO CONTACT WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS.

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## REGAINING THE CONNECTION IN 2013

- Current re-vamping of the package
- Liaison with: PS Chris Macklin (Lewisham Borough Mental Health Liaison Officer)
- A Meeting has been arranged with PS Macklin for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November to begin discussions around recommending the training.

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## RELEVANCE TO OFFICERS DAY TO DAY WORK

- OUT OF THE 280 OFFICERS WHO RETURNED THEIR EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRES:
- 146 SAID THE TRAINING WAS VERY RELEVANT TO THEIR WORK
- 114 SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL
- ONLY 14 SAID IT WAS NOT AT ALL RELEVANT

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## OFFICERS COMMENTS

- MANY OFFICERS SAID THE TRAINING HAD DISPELLED MYTHS AROUND PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS AND IT WAS RELEVANT TO THEIR WORK
- SOME OFFICERS SAID "IT WAS THE BEST TRAINING DAY THEY HAD SINCE JOINING THE POLICE."
- NEARLY ALL THE OFFICERS SAID THEY NOW HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WORK AND HOW THEY LINK TO POLICE SERVICES

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## CONCLUSIONS

FROM A NURSING PERSPECTIVE, WE NOW HAVE A FAR GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF THE POLICE IN THE COMMUNITY AND HOW MUCH THEY KNOW ABOUT OUR PATIENTS.

SHARING INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE HAS GREATLY ENHANCED OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL POLICE TO THE POINT WHEREBY LOCAL COMMUNITY OFFICERS HAVE ATTENDED PATIENT COMMUNITY MEETINGS ON THE WARDS AT LADYWELL

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## UPDATES

THE TRAINING HAS SINCE RECEIVED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY SEVERAL OTHER POLICE SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND ALSO IN AUSTRALIA WITH REGARD TO ITS USE.

- FOUR MEMBERS OF NURSING STAFF WHO DELIVERED THE TRAINING RECEIVED METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE COMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PIECE OF WORK

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*"It's a gift and a curse.  
You get the pain much  
worse than anybody else,  
but you see a sunrise  
much more beautiful than  
anybody else!"*

Spike Milligan

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## REFERENCES

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- Nursing Times (17 March 2009) Vol 105 No 10. Delivering Mental Health Awareness Training To Police Officers. [www.nursingtimes.net](http://www.nursingtimes.net)

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