



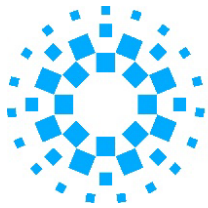
Department
of Health &
Social Care



NPCC
National Police Chiefs' Council



Home Office



College of
Policing



England



Association of
Police and Crime
Commissioners

Health and Policing Consensus: Working Together to Protect and Prevent Harm to Communities

July 2025

Local
Government
Association



FACULTY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

RSPH
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
VISION, VOICE AND PRACTICE

Introduction

This consensus statement represents a renewed commitment from the Association of Directors of Public Health, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, College of Policing, Faculty of Public Health, Home Office, Local Government Association, NHS England, National Police Chiefs' Council, Department of Health and Social Care, and the Royal Society for Public Health to continue working in partnership for the benefit of our communities.

It provides a focus for policing and health services to work in collaboration to improve people's health and wellbeing, prevent harm and protect our local communities.

The current context

The public health system and other public services work to address the building blocks of health, which includes good jobs, homes, education and safe communities. There is a clear social gradient: people living in the most deprived areas are often affected the most by poor health, harm and crime. Research consistently demonstrates that risk factors for poor health reflect the risk factors for offending. Individuals in contact with the criminal justice system experience disproportionately high rates of complex health issues, including mental health problems, physical health conditions, learning disabilities, substance misuse, and increased risk of dying sooner than they should. As well as the impact on the community, this also increases demand on services across the system.

Policing Vision 2030 (published in 2023) sets out the key pillars that will help the policing system work with partners to make communities safer and stronger by 2030. It places an emphasis on prevention and system improvement, recognising the increasingly complex policing landscape which requires a more sophisticated approach to tackle new and evolving challenges. Whether it is child sexual exploitation, violence against women and girls, drug use or new threats from serious and organised crime such as human trafficking, working collaboratively across the system is key to preventing crime and protecting our communities in the modern policing environment.

The signatories to this consensus are engaged in essential work to tackle risk factors, reduce inequalities and improve lives. By working in partnership, we can amplify our impact.

Our Commitments

Together, we can learn from those with lived experience and intervene early to address the common factors that bring people into contact with the police and criminal justice system and lead to poor physical and mental health. Joint working will support improvements in public safety, the reduction of offending, reoffending and harm, and improve outcomes for individuals and the wider community.

Public health priorities are aligned with those of policing across England, and this consensus agreement sets out our joint commitment to embed prevention across the system, building trust and sharing knowledge across professional and organisational boundaries to make a real difference to improving health and wellbeing outcomes and reducing health inequalities.

The signatories commit to:

System-wide approaches

- Continue developing and embedding **whole-system, place-based approaches** to commissioning and delivering preventative services in response to assessments of threat, harm, risk and vulnerability – increasing the reach and impact of all services
- Establish ethical frameworks that inform the approach to **multi-agency data sharing**, acknowledging the importance of privacy concerns but also the imperative to identify and support those at risk at the earliest opportunity.
- Support **standardised approaches to evaluation and measuring outcomes** across agencies, with a focus on person-centred metrics that capture the real-world impact of interventions.
- Collaborating to **understand the drivers of demand and designing evidence-based solutions** using problem solving and public health approaches.

Meaningful community connections

- Meaningfully incorporate **community perspectives** in the design, delivery, and evaluation of services, recognising the valuable insight that comes from lived experience, and continue supporting people through the millions of interactions between community members, health and police services and our partners each year.

- Draw upon our unique assets and connections to our communities in order to **positively influence social, economic and environmental conditions** and thereby enhance the lives of the populations we serve.

Staff development and opportunities to embed

- Provide **leadership and a clear vision** for this work in our respective organisations.
- Develop and deliver training and guidance for staff, and continue to **create cultures, opportunities and environments** in which learning can be put into practice.

Our commitments align with national missions focusing on safer streets and a pivot towards prevention within healthcare, contributing to efforts in tackling health and social inequalities.

This consensus is specific to England; however, we will work with our counterparts in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, wherever possible and appropriate, to share learning and address joint objectives.

We commit to jointly contributing to the evidence base and influencing policy and process with regular evaluation of this consensus framework. We will utilise both quantitative data and qualitative insights from service providers and users to assess progress against our commitments and to adapt our approach in response to emerging evidence and changing needs.