



RIGHT CARE, RIGHT PERSON (RCRP) POLICY

Executive Summary

This Policy will ensure that West Midlands Police (WMP) is able to deliver the Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) program in line with the National Partnerships Agreement: Right Care, Right Person [National Partnership Agreement: Right Care, Right Person](#).

We recognise there will always be a need for the police to respond to persons in mental health crisis in circumstances where a crime is being reported or when there is a real and immediate risk to life or of serious injury and the circumstances identify the police service being the most appropriate agency to attend.

However, we need to ensure that when the police are not the most appropriate agency that we do not assume such responsibilities. By assuming such responsibilities, we are asking officers to manage complex needs they are not best placed to manage and those in mental health crisis often experience greater distress and poorer experiences of mental health care pathways.

This policy is to ensure that vulnerable people are given the right support by the right agency at the right time.

Authorised Professional Practice (APP)

WMP has adopted the [College of Policing Mental Health APP](#), with supplementary information contained herein, which reflects local practice and the needs of the communities served by WMP.

Consideration has also been made in relation to the [College of Policing Right Care, Right Person Toolkit](#) and the [College of Policing implementation principles for incidents involving children Right Care Right Person](#).

Scope

The Chief Constable has overall direction and control of WMP and is accountable for all policies and supporting documents of the organisation and its actions. Adherence to this force policy will be expected from all WMP officers and staff.

Objectives

This policy aims to:

- Build around the core duties of policing which are to protect life and property, preserve order and prevent the commissioning of offences.
- Ensure we are compliant with our responsibilities as set out by the jointly developed Right Care, Right Person policies.



- Ensure WMP improve the training delivered to our workforce to ensure we can discharge responsibilities in line with the Right Care, Right Person principles.
- Minimise occasions where the police respond to incidents, they are not best placed to respond too due to capacity issues of other agencies, to reduce the potential of stigmatising or criminalising those in mental health crisis or suffering from other medical conditions.
- Ensure we continue to work in collaboration with both internal and external stakeholders including the third sector and those with lived experience.

Definitions/Acronyms

AWOL	Absent Without Official Leave
RCRP	Right Care Right Person
WMP	West Midlands Police

Policy Statements

- 1.1 Ensure we have the ability through data collection, sharing and analyses to understand demand and the effective implementation of RCRP.
- 1.2 Ensure we have the correct governance in place with appropriate internal and external strategic oversight. This will be the responsibility of the chief officer responsible for Mental health with the support of the Senior Responsible Officer.
- 1.3 Ensure we have an appropriate response to concerns for welfare and concerns for voluntary patients from health facilities. ([Refer to Mental Health Procedural Guidance chapter 2](#))
- 1.4 Ensure we have an appropriate response to patients who are AWOL as defined under [section 18 Mental Health Act](#). ([Refer to Mental Health Procedural Guidance chapter 3](#))
- 1.5 Ensure we have an appropriate response to detentions required under section [135 and 136 Mental Health Act](#) ([Refer to Mental Health Procedural Guidance chapters 4 & 5](#))
- 1.6 Ensure we only transport those in mental health crisis in exceptional circumstances. ([Refer to Mental Health Procedural Guidance chapter 6](#))
- 1.7 Ensure our response to children is in line with the college of policing guidance implementation principles for incidents involving children [Implementation principles for incidents involving children | College of Policing](#)
- 1.8 Ensure we have effective escalation processes in place to address live time operational issues surrounding RCRP as well as identified themes. ([Refer to Mental Health toolkit escalation processes](#))



- 1.9 Ensure we provide training and when appropriate work in collaboration with other key stakeholders.

Relevant Legislation / Policies / Procedural Guidance

- [National Partnerships Agreement: Right Care, Right Person \(RCRP\)](#)
- [College of Policing Mental Health APP](#)
- [Right Care Right Person Toolkit – College of Policing](#)
- [WMP Mental Health Policy](#)
- [WMP Mental Health Procedural Guidance](#)
- [WMP RCRP Equality Assessment](#)

Equality Impact Assessment

WMP places trust in their employees to comply with force policies and to work in accordance with and in support of:

- [WMP Vision and Values](#)
- [Code of Ethics | College of Policing](#)
- [Voice of the Child](#)

Additional documentation with this policy details the full [Equality Assessment](#).

Publication Instructions

Suitable for publication to public

Document Control

Strategic Lead: <i>[role and name]</i>	Chief Superintendent [REDACTED] Head of Force Contact
Policy Author(s): <i>[role and name]</i>	Chief Inspector [REDACTED] Force Mental Health SME
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FET Lead: <i>[role and name]</i>	ACC Paul Drover – Force Exec Lead for Mental Health & RCRP
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Any enquiries in relation to this policy should be made directly with the Strategic Lead.

All policies are subject to a formal consultation process which encompasses Legal, Professional Standards, Faith Groups, Trade Unions, Independent Advisory Groups and wider force groups and any other relevant parties. A record of consultation can be found on the Policy Portal.

It is responsibility of the Strategic Lead to ensure that all links within the policy are correct and accessible.

**Amendment History:**

Version Number:	Effective Date:	Summary of Amendments:	Author:
1.0	17/09/2023	New policy	Chief Supt. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
2.0		Full policy review	Chief Insp. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]