

Serenity Integrated Mentoring support for mental health crisis

In every community there is a small number of people who struggle with severe mental health issues every day. They often have appalling stories of neglect and rejection. They may even be victims of crime. Without the right support, the individual can fail to develop the skills to re-build their lives.

These people need a highly specialist team, led by mental health and specialist police officers to keep them safe - to keep them out of trouble and out of the criminal justice system. The aim is to support them intensively until they establish some behavioural stability and new hope.



“ SIM has enabled NHS staff to develop a much closer working relationship with police officers based on trust and respect. I've been very impressed with the skill and commitment shown by the SIM police officers. ”

NHS Clinician

This is exactly what Serenity Integrated Mentoring (SIM) aims to deliver. It brings together the police and community mental health services, in order to better support 'high intensity users' of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act (MHA) and public services.

● **Paul Jennings** - Innovator of SIM and Network Director of the High Intensity Network.

A new report **SIM London - Support for a better life** gives the background to the SIM model, the governance structure and training requirements that have been implemented for SIM London. In this summary we provide a snapshot of the collective London data for the first 24 months of the programme.



“ Questions are always asked of mental health and policing about what can change and what can be improved. This (SIM) is the answer in my eyes and it is shown to work. The people I have worked with have reduced demand on services which has led to reduced costs and all round more positive for the service user. ”

SIM Police Officer



● Live SIM boroughs

👮 12 Police Officers

 108

people have been allocated to SIM over the two years of the programme. 79 people have been engaging with the SIM police officers and care coordinators.

 13

is the average number of months people have been on SIM, ranging from just 1 month to 25 months.

“ The good thing about SIM is the joint working...it is a new partnership. The potential for working with police and building those relationships in different ways is the most positive thing that will come out of this. ”

NHS Clinician

The findings



For those allocated to SIM the number of contacts per month, per service user decreased for: A&E attendances, ambulance resources despatched, mental health bed days, police deployments and S136s.



Nearly three quarters of service users have seen a decrease in the cost per month across all metrics since engagement with SIM and the largest individual cost reduction was £10,134 per month.



Comparing the baseline period to engagement there was an average decrease of costs by 42% which amounts to £1,298 per month per service user. Across the entire London Cohort, this would translate to a total estimated cost saving of £1,452,462.

About us

The Health Innovation Network is the Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) for south London, one of 15 AHSNs across England.

 Health Innovation Network South London

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