



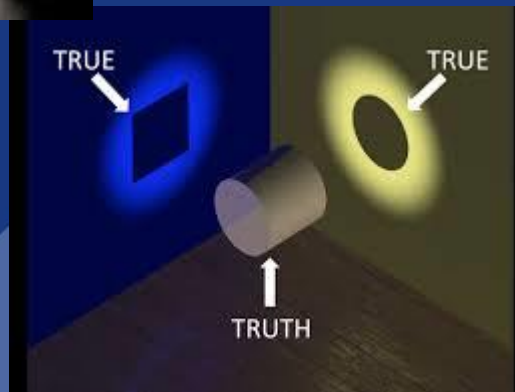
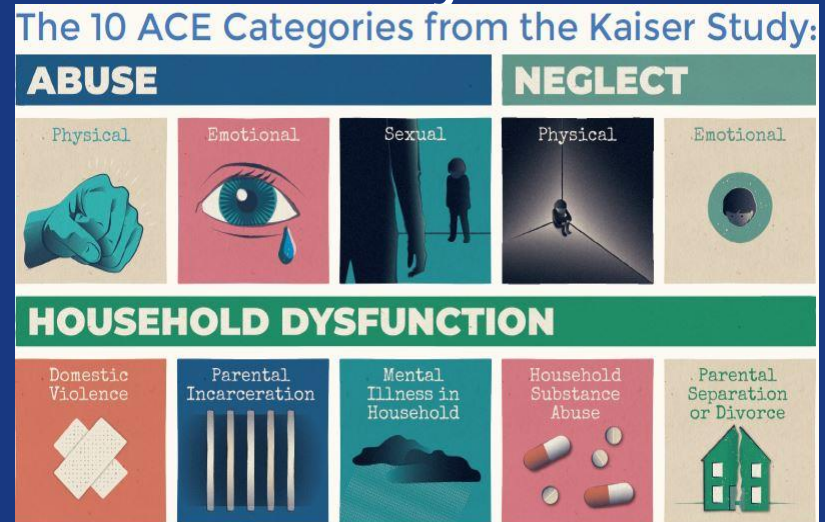
# Police Custody Healthcare

Understanding crisis.

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Police Scotland

You can judge a society by how well it treats its prisoners". - Fyodor Dostoevsky





# POLICE CUSTODY



## OUR AIM:

TO IMPROVE WELFARE AND  
HEALTHCARE PROVISION  
FOR PEOPLE IN POLICE CUSTODY

## OUR ISSUE:

WE CAN'T SEE WHAT'S REALLY  
GOING ON



# **POLICE CUSTODY IS A UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT...**

- **79 custody centres across the country – 33 open 24/7**
- **Throughput – ca. 117000 people a year**
- **Abstractions from Custody to Hospital:**
  - **8584 hospital visits**
  - **Frontline policing hours lost: 56,940**

Ingress and Egress – the most vulnerable times of the patient journey.

## Arrival in Custody

VULNERABILITY QUESTIONS

RISK ASSESSMENT

FREQUENCY OF VISITS



# Innovate to intervene



# Sunday Choices

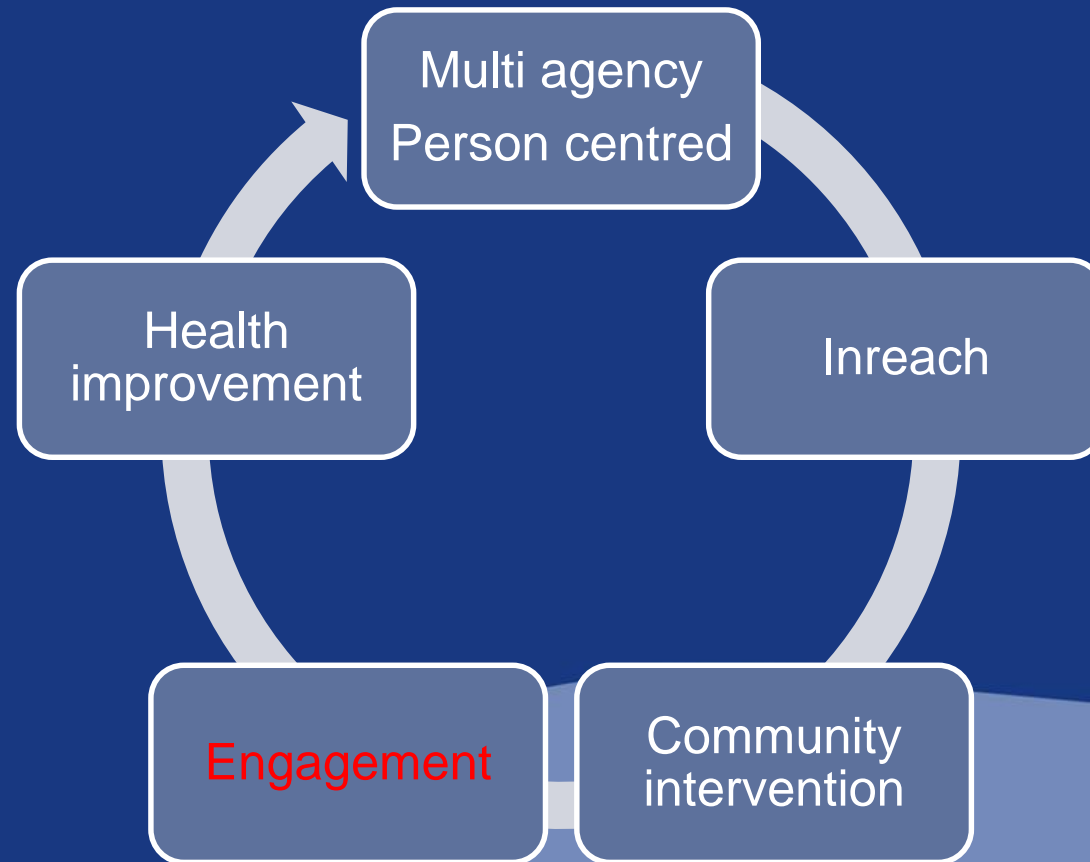
- <https://www.qnis.org.uk/project/sunday-choices/>
- **What was the issue that required change?**
- Patients in Police Custody are some of the most **marginalised and disenfranchised** people in society. They find it hard to access or engage with services that are designed to help them. Those who are detained on a Friday night will spend the weekend in custody. By Sunday, the effects of drugs and drink have worn off, and **they want to talk to someone**, but the service isn't there.

# South East Scotland Faculty of Arrest Referral





# Model



## Services for People Who Inject or Have Injected Drugs

We spoke to 29 service users across 6 different settings in order to learn more about the health needs of people who inject or have injected drugs in Edinburgh. We also met with service providers and reviewed a range of data sources to improve our understanding for this project.



### What service users told us...



#### Some of the difficult things about being on treatment are...

- Long waiting times between assessment and starting methadone
- Coming off methadone
- Asking for clean works if you are still injecting sometimes
- Coping with feeling low and depressed
- Risky times, like coming out of prison
- Missing friends who still inject
- Feeling that some NHS and pharmacy staff treat you as second class

#### Some of the good things about services are...

- The NHS workers, pharmacy, hub staff and GPs who treat you with respect
- Talking to other people who have been in the same situation, and don't use drugs any more
- Having someone to help you as soon as you get out of prison
- Linkworkers you can work with and rely on
- Help to cope with not having drugs if you are held in police custody
- Having someone to chum you to a first visit to a new service



#### We also heard...

- It's not hard to end up being homeless
- It can feel difficult to go and get help with basic health problems, like injection site wounds
- Help and advice after an overdose needs to be given in the right way



## What we will do.

- **Improve communication between different parts of the NHS and other organisations that work with people currently injecting or who have injected drugs.**
- **Make it easier for people to get onto a treatment programme**

## We aim to...

- Ensure the same support, care and information for health and harm
- Find better ways to support people with particular problems, for example women who are **homeless**, people leaving prison, IPED users

# Operation Threshold

- Identifying and engaging those at highest risk of harm from substance misuse
  - Intelligence Cell
  - NHS triage and recommendation of interventions
  - VOW/Aid & Abet engagement and signposting/support into treatment/diversionary activities

# Operation Threshold

- 13 referrals to date based on intelligence development/review of police systems in relation to high risk behaviour
- NHS triage and suite of options provided for each case
- 9 of 13 traced and actively engaged with

## Conclusions

- Death in custody and DRDs preceded by a public overdose requiring naloxone.
- Indicative of final crisis.
- Red flag predictor of completed death in the community especially in homelessness situations.
- Anticipatory care can intervene in this cycle.



Questions?