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SCANNED

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13 August 2015

I have now been CEO of the PTC for 14 months, and although not a significant and obvious milestone, I thought that I would write to you with a short update as to how the Police Treatment Centres (PTC) has evolved during this period and some new policy decisions which have recently been decided by the PTC Board of Trustees.

In 2014 we provided treatment for 4043 Police Patients across both our Centres, and were formally focussed on getting those serving officers back on duty as swiftly as possible. We have dramatically improved the facilities at our St Andrews Centre including a new and updated Reception Area, the building of a new Indoor Cycling Studio, a fleet of entirely new Exercise and Gym CV equipment, an outdoor gym area, transformation of our Summer house into "Zen Hub/Relaxation Area", the creation of a new Sensory Garden, and a variety of other internal pieces of refurbishment.

At our Centre in Scotland, work is ongoing, and we are currently building a new swimming pool, hydrotherapy pool, and gym. There is much to be proud of in terms of these improvements, and we are also delighted to announce the recent appointment of a new Head of Clinical Services, who as well as being tasked with reviewing our current physical treatment programme, will be charged with developing a coherent and better joined up programme for how we treat patients suffering from non-physical injuries, a growing challenge within the Police service at the moment which accounts for over 20% of the numbers of officers that we are admitting.

In other news and the main reason for my update letter is to inform you that the PTC Board of Trustees decided in a Board Meeting on 1 August 2015 that we would allow PCSOs, Special Constables and Detention/Custody Officers (employed by the PCC or CC) to become donors to the PTC if they wish to do so. We are still working through the mechanics of how we will implement the new policy, but we anticipate that PCSOs and Detention/Custody Officers (employed by the PCC or CC) will be invited to donate at the current rate for warranted officers, and we hope that Chiefs, PCCs and or the Home Office might be able to find a separate funding stream for Specials who of course are volunteers. This new policy will come into effect from 1 January 2016.

This was a significant move forward for the PTC and a very big decision for the Board. I know that our exclusion of these groups in the past has caused some concern as many of the individuals in these groups were working alongside their warranted colleagues, often doing the same job, and were subject to the same risks and challenges, but yet were not offered the opportunity to donate to the PTC, and take advantage of the treatment that we

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could offer. The PTC Board felt that morally we should be giving these groups at least the opportunity to donate to the PTC, and the same right of access that their warranted colleagues have, and I am pleased to announce that this is now the case.

As you are aware, in the last five years we have lost 5000 of our donating members for a variety of reasons, including most significantly through cuts to overall officer numbers. By widening our eligibility at this time to other police partners, the PTC will put itself in a stronger position to support all our police donating members both now and in the long term.

The PTC Board also decided at the same meeting that if Retired Officers wish to retain their eligibility to attend the PTC for treatment in the future, they would be required to pay a donation rate of 50% of the rate paid by their serving colleagues. Serving officers will still retain the priority for admission, and one week stays for Retired Officers (serving officers come for two week blocks) will continue to be assessed against our clinical eligibility criteria.

Although we have gathered anecdotal evidence from both serving officers and many retired officers who have attended the PTC that they believe this is an appropriate change of policy and indeed a reasonable donation rate which will give them an opportunity to contribute to the PTC income that they lack at the moment, we know for others that this will be controversial and not welcome. However, the Board again felt it to be an appropriate decision and important that we keep the PTC moving with the times if we are to ensure our long term future. This policy will come into effect from 1 January 2016 and we expect to roll it out on a staged basis starting with No.1 Region in England and Wales, and this information is also in the process of being communicated to NARPO/RPOAS and Retired Officers from PSNI. It will of course be quite challenging to attempt to capture the many thousands of police officers who have already retired and bring them on to the PTC books as donating members, but where possible we would like to try to have a check box inserted in the literature your officers receive at their retirement seminars to give them an opportunity to continue to donate to the PTC. If possible it would be useful to have an opportunity to discuss this with you, and assess whether it is practicable.

We would be very grateful if you could ensure that you distribute this information as widely as possible within your Force as part of our communication plan. We will over the next few months be issuing some updates and clarifications to this new policy, and we will keep you informed as to what is going on.

I suspect that is enough for the time being, and although I have tried to keep this information succinct, as you will see there is a much to update you on.

I hope to catch up with you at some stage over the next few months but if you do have any questions please do not hesitate to ring me for a chat, or I would be happy to either welcome you to the PTC for a visit, or indeed to come and see you in your office.

Yours sincerely
THE POLICE TREATMENT CENTRES



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