

## 1 Background

Prior to COVID-19, the weekly average for Mental Health Officer detentions (MHOD) was 20. By week 12 of the lockdown period, this had risen to 24 and by week 21 this had increased to 30. The number of Vulnerable Persons reports recorded by Police Scotland has risen by 39% during that period, with anecdotal evidence that much of this is due to people experiencing mental and emotional distress.

## 2 Research Question

What can we learn from the increase in the number of Mental Health Officer detentions during the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic to help inform future practice and service provision?

## 3 Supports

Most individuals were already known to SWS, and had pre-existing supports in place (particularly mental health supports). A third of individuals went on to have a further detention. 25 people were subject to ASP referrals, and 21 of these resulted in no further action. ASP was sometimes not progressed when the individual was detained in hospital, subject to mental health legislation, or was being managed by another service.

## 7 Next Steps

Present findings to MHO Governance Group.  
Linkages with Citywide groups such as ADP and ASP Steering Groups.  
Further interrogation of data.  
Awareness raising re carers support.  
Consideration of how we can ensure service provision/ design adequately meets need.

## 6 Nature of Supports

High prevalence of supports continuing to be offered during the initial stages of the pandemic, reflective of agencies commitment to maintaining support under challenging circumstances. Now a need to reflect and consider how appropriate the format was, and how can this shape service provision going forward.

# Mental Health Officer Detentions Thematic Review



## 4 Co-morbidities & Carers

The high correlation with comorbidities - 45% of cases referenced substance misuse. What understanding do we have of how lockdown has impacted drug/alcohol use in the city and how these individuals interact with recovery services?

Surprisingly few individuals in the scope of this review were identified as parents or as having caring responsibilities for children/other adults, and only 2 cases directly referenced individuals being supported by other family members. This is of particular note when linked to Child Thematic review on Parental Mental Health and the age demographics of the cohort.

## 5 Covid Specific Impacts

There was not a lot of evidence in the file reading relating to the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown specifically. Only 6 cases referenced COVID explicitly in relation to the detention. However, we must be aware of the inadvertent consequences for isolation, mental health, and substance use.