



SOUTH YORKSHIRE

**ARREST, DETENTION AND CUSTODY FOR
DETAINEES WITH ASD**


Introduction and Aims

- ▶ **Diversions from custody**
 - ▶ **Making decisions real time to prevent escalation**
 - ▶ **Making custody ASD friendly**
 - ▶ **Use of Alert Cards and partnership training with NAS- Benefits and results**
 - ▶ **Case study**
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Arrest and Police custody

- ▶ **SYP – Population 1.3 million**
 - ▶ **Culturally diverse over 150 languages**
 - ▶ **Fifth largest city**
 - ▶ **55,000 arrests a year**
 - ▶ **6 custody suites**
 - ▶ **Specialist staff with a strong culture of detainee welfare**
 - ▶ **HMIC/P**
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Autism Alert Card

- ▶ Launched in SYP a year ago – 100 attendees
 - ▶ Lisa Pitkeathly (NAS)
 - ▶ Targeted Firearms and TASER officers first
 - ▶ Custody staff – Rotational training
 - ▶ Selected Frontline officers
 - ▶ 400 staff had direct training
 - ▶ 1000 staff have accessed DVD and intranet learning
 - ▶ 50 percent of officers
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Benefits of the Alert Card

- ▶ Stopped arrests– real interest from officers
 - ▶ Can be found on search
 - ▶ Safeguarded investigations
 - ▶ Helped to meet the needs of service users– victims and witness
 - ▶ CPS aware of this initiative via LCJB
 - ▶ Provided a link with this vulnerable population group
 - ▶ Reassured the public via media, local support groups and partners
 - ▶ Highlighted what else was missing via SCT
 - ▶ Shared with other forces BTP West Yorkshire Humberside – momentum
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Future directions

- ▶ **Re launch of the scheme due to its success**
 - ▶ **Tie in with the force strategy on MH and LD**
 - ▶ **Training for all student officers and a rolling programme for all staff-**
 - ▶ **PACE 12 adapted – data collection prevalence**
 - ▶ **Disability IAG**
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Custody Environment – friend or foe

- ▶ **Sensory issues –**
 - ▶ **Strong smells**
 - ▶ **Magnified acoustics**
 - ▶ **Poorly ventilated**
 - ▶ **Little natural light**
 - ▶ **Most lights are UV fluorescent (pulse)**
 - ▶ **Walls and surfaces baron- hard**
 - ▶ **Functional but intimidating**
 - ▶ **Opportunities for SIB**
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Diversion Options

- ▶ **Refusal of arrest- more appropriate interventions
PACE 9 – immediate rebail, community interventions.**
- ▶ **Enhanced review with strict time limits**
- ▶ **Ensuring Appropriate adults are always used**
- ▶ **Constant supervision to prevent SIB**
- ▶ **Sharing of info to reduce risk**
- ▶ **Use visual information where ever possible**
- ▶ **No jargon, sarcasm or irony !!!**
- ▶ **Instructions clear and simple**
- ▶ **Use of at a glance publications by NAS**
- ▶ **Vulnerable tags and family intervention**


Case study

- ▶ Jack – Doncaster 19 with ASD
- ▶ Loved driving – at night
- ▶ Stopped by police repeatedly due to his “shifty” demeanour
- ▶ Unable to give a viable account of what he was doing officer became increasingly suspicious
- ▶ Pace searched him, something not right
- ▶ Submitted intelligence form
- ▶ Later Arrested for robbery -occurred prior to stop
- ▶ Detained 11 hours VIPER not picked out RIE'd
- ▶ Custody staff raise this–
- ▶ Family complain – investigated with his support worker
- ▶ Lessons learnt for organisation.

Trends -arrest

- **Vulnerability exploited by others**
 - **Behavioural meltdown resulting in assaults**
 - **Inability to explain actions “suspicious” behaviour leading to escalation between officer and individual – typically the driving scenerio.**
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Open invite

- ▶ **Happy to share our experiences with other forces – 3 other forces taken us up on this**
 - ▶ **Our training package – bespoke to custody firearms and a general awareness initiative**
 - ▶ **In partnership with NAS – professional and impactful**
 - ▶ **Benefits of this initiative**
 - ▶ **Consider launching NAS Alert Card scheme**
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▶ **Any questions?**

- ▶ andy.hunt@southyorks.pnn.police.uk
- ▶ simon.mellors@southyorks.pnn.police.uk