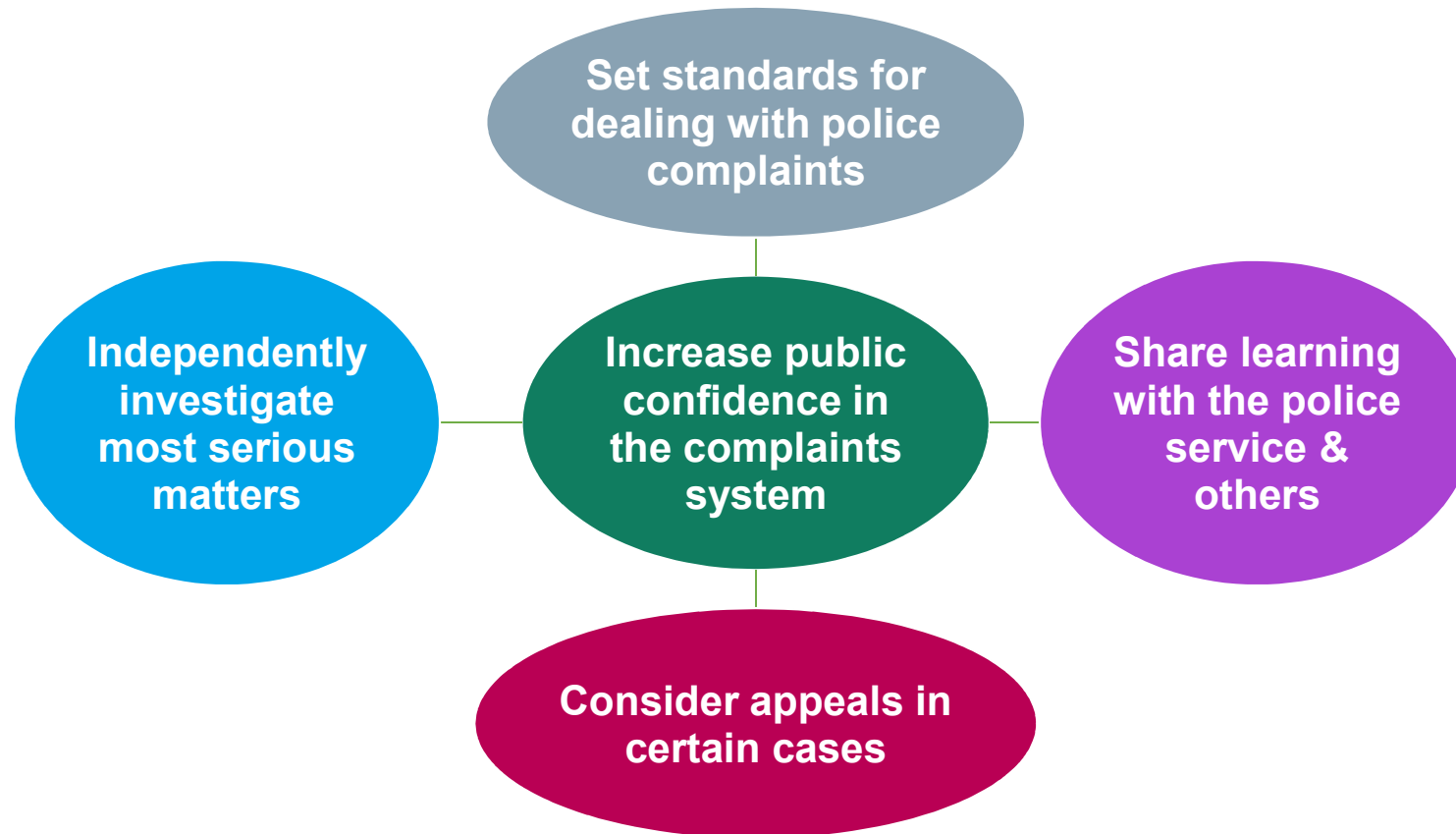


POLICING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Tom Milsom

Independent Police Complaints Commission

The IPCC's role



Mental health – use of force

- 20% (46 people) in our sample had a mental health concern
- Three times more likely to be on drugs and twice as likely to be under the influence of alcohol as those with no mental illness
- 50% of people who had mental ill health were in possession of a weapon during the incident in question - significantly higher than people with no mental illness (14%)

Mental health – Use of force

- A higher proportion of people with mental health concerns experienced force in the custody environment (24%) than people with no mental illness identified (13%).
- People with mental health concerns were significantly more likely to have a firearm or Taser used on them. They were also more likely to be put into restraint equipment than people with no mental health concerns.

Mental health – use of force recommendations

- Develop, or adapt existing training on unconscious bias, in relation to officers deciding when and how to use force.
- Make sure risk assessment processes prompt officers to give special consideration to vulnerable people's needs when planning operations.
- Training in communication techniques to help manage and de-escalate situations without using force.
- Review existing arrangements for police attendance at medical facilities to minimise police involvement

Death statistics – 2016/17

- 14 deaths in or following police custody
 - 8 had mental health concerns
- 55 apparent suicides
 - Three-quarters had mental health concerns

General learning from investigations

- Appropriate training
- Referrals to other agencies
- Identifying vulnerabilities
- Call handling/grading
- Liaison with other agencies
- Suitability of places of safety
- Use of appropriate adults

Six missed chances – main themes

- The patient mindset – welfare & safety
- Restraint - de-escalation
 - Verbal de-escalation
 - Contain not restrain
 - Continued de-escalation
- Restraint - medical emergency
- Suitability of local partnership arrangements

Other issues/questions

- Policing & Crime Act changes – length of detention. Achievable in practice?
- ABD – Arrangements for ambulance service and sedation?

IPCC work

- Mental health working group
 - Identify themes in our work
 - Disseminate learning
 - Promote good practice
 - Share knowledge
- Stakeholder engagement to improve
 - Public and stakeholder confidence in the IPCC
 - Operational practice
 - Community confidence in independence and effectiveness of our highest profile investigations