Background: NHS England, London Region, in partnership with Transport for London and British Transport Police have funded a mental health liaison service to help reduce the risk of suicides and incidents across the rail and underground network.

Case for Change:
BTP’s national statistics showed that in 2012/13 on the railway there were:

- 350 fatalities, 84% believed to be suicides
- 41% of the deceased had a mental health history
- 1700 incidents a month which involve mental health issues
- 2700 incidents of suicidal behaviour per year
- Evidence of vulnerable people travelling great distances to attempt suicide and importing demand for services
- In a 3 month period only 5 out of 11 people involved in suicidal incidents in Camden lived in the Borough
- There are hotspots in north London where 30% of suicides & 37% of all related incidents in this area of London take place.

The Solution:
NHS England, London Region, in partnership with Transport for London and British Transport Police have funded a mental health liaison service to help reduce the risk of suicides and incidents across the rail and underground network. The Partnership has brought key agencies together to deliver the following:

- An integrated service with healthcare professionals embedded in the BTP teams to support officer in their management of people who are at risk of suicide
- Outreach interventions & assessments
- Fast access to data
- Improving the transition from Crisis to Care
- Supporting and advising local providers of railway services and using face recognition software and CCTV at railway stations to identify individuals who might be at risk of suicide and allow preventative measures to be taken

In addition, BTP have a Suicide Prevention Hotline. The Hotline contact details are shared with care providers to use if they are concerned that someone may harm themselves on the railway. There is both an emergency hotline for use when there is an immediate concern that someone may be at risk as well as a non-urgent number which allows care providers to get in contact with BTP specialist units dealing with mental health and suicide prevention.

Impact:
Integrated Teams of healthcare professionals and the Police:

- Allows the sharing of risk information between agencies
- Allows earlier access to relevant information resulting in improved decision making.
- Assists frontline officers in enabling them to access places of safety for people detained under S136 of the MHA
- Improvements in accessing care for those found in crisis by BTP Officers

The Impact quantified:
- During 2013/14, 631 people received life-saving interventions on the railway.
- There were 2,525 individuals identified by the BTP with suicidal risk behaviour between January and December 2015.
- During the same period 457 Suicide Prevention Plans were opened in collaboration with Mental Health services.