



## Minutes

25<sup>th</sup> June 2020: 10.30 – 13.00

Microsoft Teams

### Attendees:

David Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner (Chair)  
 Chief Constable, Charlie Hall, Herts Constabulary  
 Assistant CC Genna Telfer, Herts Constabulary  
 Sara Miles, Herts Criminal Justice Policy Manager, OPCC  
 Kevin McGetrick, Head of Commissioning & Victim Services, OPCC  
 Christopher Barclay, Criminal Justice Research and Performance Analyst, OPCC  
 Layla Allan, Citizens Advice Witness Service  
 Sharn Elton, East and North Herts CCG  
 Neeve Bishop, National Probation Service  
 Chief Supt Kay Lancaster, Head of Crime for Hertfordshire, Herts Constabulary  
 CDI Anna Wright, Herts Constabulary  
 Ian Miller, HMCTS  
 Nick Smith, Head of Service, Youth Justice, Herts County Council  
 Claire Weston, Head of Health and Justice (East), NHS England  
 Jenny Coles, Director of Children's Services, HCC  
 Paul Millan, Noble Solicitors,  
 Tom Moreton, Deputy Director, BeNCH CRC  
 Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager, Three Rivers DC (Presenting agenda item 4)  
 Bethan McPhee, Executive Assistant, OPCC (Secretariat)

### Apologies:

Jaswant Narwal, Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS Thames and Chiltern  
 Fergus McMullen, Independent Member & Chair of the Community Liaison Group  
 Beverley Flowers, North & East Herts CCG  
 Jeff Stack, Chief Executive, Broxbourne Borough Council

	Item	Updates
1.	Introductions & Apologies	The Chairman welcomed board members and guests to the group. Introductions were made and apologies were noted.
2.	Minutes from last meeting and Review of Action Log	The minutes of the last meeting held in December, were acknowledged to be an accurate reflection of the discussion:  Action Tracker was reviewed.

3.	Performance & Recovery	<p>There were no items to escalate from PPMG but there was an agreement to review additional data during the recovery period. This will include figures for RUI, bail, court backlogs. It is not just the figures needed but some of the detail – how many are under 18, what type of offences, trials / first hearings.</p> <p><b>HCJB Performance Dashboard – exception reporting:</b> Chris Barclay shared the data he had distributed to the group ahead of the meeting. Key areas of interest were highlighted:</p> <p><b>Vacated Trial rate</b> – last quarter jumped up to 51.3%. Understand change in listing patterns and a lack of legal advisers which led to the increase. Most recent quarter is down to 42.5%. It was noted that more Legal Advisers are returning in June &amp; there will be more trial dates in the next quarter.</p> <p><b>NPS Licenses/Post Sentence Supervision Completion</b> - It was noted that there is a difference between looking at 18/19 – 19/20 data. Questioned if this may be due to a change in the way data has been captured.</p> <p><b>Action: Neeve Bishop &amp; Sara Miles to discuss outside of the meeting.</b></p> <p>The report has highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The way that the court system has suffered throughout this pandemic.</li> <li>• There is an issue in backlog of trials which shows itself quite significantly.</li> <li>• Issue on DA conviction rate.</li> <li>• File quality.</li> </ul> <p><b>File Quality:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• File Quality Unit to be fully staffed by the end of July - plan to base a member of staff permanently in DAISU.</li> <li>• SFR medical (who presented to PPMG in February 2020) - this is going to be implemented which should speed up the way medical records are accessed which should improve the file quality piece.</li> <li>• Evidence.com – now being used. This has reduced number of discs being transferred across the CPS and the time taken for the transfer of information. No data available at the moment but there should be a significant impact.</li> <li>• To be monitored closely going forward.</li> </ul> <p>In September we should be able to reflect on what has happened and whether things are improving.</p> <p><b>Recovery Data Pack &amp; Recovery planning:</b> This data was also shared with the group in advance.</p> <p>Mixed picture – receipt level is where disposal is –which is good news. But we still don't know where in the system cases are sitting and where the blockages may be. It was also noted that the level of receipts to disposals is looked at weekly and is quite volatile. The last week may look positive but it doesn't mean that next week will be. CPS have convened weekly gold meetings with partners and HMCTS have an action to arrange a subgroup to look at some of the detail behind the data. This recognises that we have a lot of the headline numbers but not the detail behind it. This will feedback to the CPS Gold Group and the HCJB.</p>
----	------------------------	--

		<p>The Chair – welcomed the fact that this data is now going to be shared and that it is a really positive thing to have come out of the crisis. The difficulty will be to get the granularity of the data coming through.</p> <p>The group were asked with regards to outstanding court cases, whether it is possible to separate youth courts from adults? This will help to understand the pressure points and involve relevant agencies. This will help recovery planning to anticipate volume planning.</p> <p>Information on RUI is extremely helpful and the detail behind it would help further. This would look at young people / adults and crime types.</p> <p><b>Action: Chris Barclay to look at presenting the recovery data in graph form.</b></p> <p>Other areas of data that would be of interest:  Wait times to get to trial in both Crown and Mags. Cases will be held for longer – there is a need to be honest with victims &amp; witnesses. Can this data be extrapolated to identify times to help manage expectations?  Kevin McGetrick noted that there is currently work being undertaken with Constabulary and Citizens Advice Bureau to look at providing some remote centres for giving evidence across the county. Seeing positive inroads into this.</p> <p><b>Action: Chris Barclay to obtain as much detail as possible to breakdown data to youths/adults, type of crime, how long cases have been waiting.</b></p>
4.	Three Rivers DA Perpetrator Programme	<p>Shivani Dave gave a presentation to the group:</p> <p>This pilot project looks at DA prevention. It began in June 2019 after receiving funding from the Criminal Justice Innovation Fund and Three Rivers District Council.</p> <p>The funding provides 1x 0.6FTE Prevention Worker and the service is provided by Herts Mind Network and forms part of their “Three Rivers Domestic Abuse Service”.</p> <p>Lessons so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cases are far more complex than first imagined.</li> <li>• Impact of childhood experiences is so significant on behaviours in later life.</li> <li>• Engagement has been strong will all clients continuing due engage virtually during covid.</li> <li>• Identified clients who are both victim and perpetrator of DA</li> <li>• Cannot underestimate the connection with mental health &amp; Trauma.</li> </ul> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased awareness of behavior.</li> <li>• Great for people who want to change behavior.</li> <li>• The programme of work does not work for narcissists.</li> </ul> <p>Reflections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of referrals have come through so far is from Children’s Services.</li> <li>• Referral target of 40 hasn’t been achieved but would have been a very high number to deal with due to complexity of the cases.</li> <li>• The target for coming year will be 30 referrals which is considered to be more realistic.</li> </ul>

- Constabulary referrals have been lower than expected due to the situation often being very intense when police arrive and it not feeling like the appropriate time to ask for consent to refer to the service. There are plans for the prevention worker to attend follow up visits with the police and discuss the service.

The Chair thanked Shivani for the presentation.

Jenny Coles noted that before covid, family safeguarding who run perpetrator programs for HCC, was due to expand and offer 3 further courses over the year but this now won't be possible.

**Action – Jenny Coles To put Shivani Dave in touch with the contact at Family Safeguarding.**

Nick Smith asked if there was any scope for young people to be supported by the programme. Shivani noted that due to skills set and the way the other services are offered in Herts, it is not currently being offered to young people, but other services have been extended to support young people so that should be something that gets linked up in some way.

Family referrals could be a way of accessing perpetrators on the programme. Shivani will take this back to her team to explore further.

**Action – Nick and Shivani to have a conversation offline to see how they can work together.**

**NPS:**

NPS can see opportunities for non-statutory cases accessing this project or for offenders who continue to need support post NPS supervision.

**Health:**

Can see the advantages of the Perpetrator Programme:

- Interested in links to interventions at a younger age and links to mental health.
- A reminder that behaviours have a root cause.
- Question if there was an opportunity to expand beyond Three Rivers?

**Citizens advice:**

Offered that they could advertise the service in their rooms at court.

**Action: Sara Miles to put Layla Allen and Shivani Dave in touch with one another so witness service can obtain leaflets for courts on the DA perpetrator programme.**

**Constabulary:**

- Would very much like to see perpetrator provision expand.
- Interested to see an evaluation of medium to longer term outcomes and the likelihood of re-offending.
- What are the health & wellbeing outcomes of these individuals.
- Be useful to see one of two case studies of those for whom who it hasn't worked for to try to understand why.

5.	Rape outcomes	<p>Presentation from Supt Kay Lancaster and DCI Anna Wright.</p> <p>At the end of 2018-19, CJ rape outcomes had declined. Lots of work undertaken since Jan 2019. Now seeing that the Rape figures are starting to increase.</p> <p>Outcome rate is 8.7% which is up 5.2% last year. Since preparing the presentation the outcome rate has improved further and is now sitting at 9.4%. There have been 16 positive charges for rape since 1st April this year. This is a really good improvement on last year's data.</p> <p>Back in January 2019 asked for a peer review. This highlighted some internal issues such as high workloads, stretched resources, supervision &amp; the working relationship with CPS. The result of which was an action plan which was put in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restructured the Sexual Offences Investigation Team.</li> <li>• Uplift in resources – across the safeguarding demand in particular in rape division.</li> </ul> <p>Due to improvements – they have been visited by a number of forces across the country.</p> <p>Online dating app adverts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the beginning of the year noticed that people were reporting rapes after meeting someone on a dating app.</li> <li>• Advertising on apps being relaunched again this week to capture people still at home – before they start going out and about socialising.</li> <li>• It is a very inclusive campaign.</li> <li>• Makes people aware of dangers of dating sites and offers them safety advice.</li> <li>• Looking ahead – freshers' weeks (and Christmas), won't be the same as it has been before, so working hard with the university to understand how Freshers' week will look and ensure that the campaign is targeting the right people.</li> </ul> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covid</li> <li>• Court backlog. Concerns victims &amp; victim attrition. Putting into place measures to speak to any victim awaiting a trial across Herts.</li> <li>• File quality – can be real anomalies for file rejections.</li> <li>• Evidence – difficulties with accounts and onward disclosures.</li> </ul> <p>Chair thanked them for their presentation and recognized that they had made huge amongst of progress. However even if Herts were sitting at the top of table, outcome rate would only still be around 10% which raises questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there something not being done nationally?</li> <li>• Does something need to be done differently?</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that those in policing do all they can to support and encourage the victim through the process – but it's not always the right way for the victim. Our systems need to be as effective and timely as they can be and there remains a huge piece of work to do around how victims of rape are dealt with.</p> <p>It was highlighted to the group that SARC are set up to provide support for victims who have experienced sexual assault with treatment and care.</p>
----	---------------	--

		The Chief Constable noted the amount of work that has gone into making improvements over the last 12-18 months and that the CPS has also been crucial to this.
6.	Any Other Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HCJB constitution will be brought forward to the next meeting and looked at formally.</li> <li>2. CJ Innovation fund – closes mid-July. Applications will be looked at, at one of the more regular Herts CJ Board meetings.</li> </ol> <p>Claire Weston asked about the evaluation of a previous bid - accommodation of women who are exiting prison which wasn't successful for funding and whether applicants can reapply.</p> <p><b>Action: Sara to email Claire Weston with information on the CJ innovation fund bid from December regarding support for women after prison.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Victims &amp; Witness - online support platform for witnesses through XenZone is going through the mobilisation phase so making good progress.</li> </ol>
7.	Future Agenda items	<p>Forward Look:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing – invitation to David Bogle (lead for housing associations across Herts) and Heads of Housing</li> <li>• Probation reform programme – Stephen Johnson Proctor (NPS Eastern Region Director) to join the meeting</li> <li>• Integrated Offender Management</li> </ul>
	Date of Next meeting	<b>Weds 30<sup>th</sup> September @ 10.00</b>