

**Hertfordshire Criminal Justice Board  
Draft Minutes  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 13.00**

**Attendees:**

PCC David Lloyd (DL, Chair)  
ACC Genna Telfer, Herts Constabulary (GT)  
Chief Supt Cath Akehurst (CA)  
Kevin McGetrick, Hertfordshire OPCC (KM)  
Sara Miles, CJ Manager, Hertfordshire OPCC (SM)  
Christopher Barclay, Hertfordshire OPCC (CB)  
Sharn Elton, NHS East & North Hertfordshire CCG (SE)  
Paul Millan, Noble Solicitors (PM)  
Nick Smith, Youth Justice (NS)  
Clare Weston, NHS England (CW)  
Ian Miller, HMCTS Cluster Manager, Beds, Cambs & Herts (IM)  
Neeve Bishop, NPS (NB)  
Claire Mullarkey, HMCTS Head of Crime, South East Region (CM)

**Apologies:**

CC Charlie Hall, Hertfordshire Constabulary  
Jenny Coles, Director of Children's Services, HCC  
Jaswant Narwal, CPS  
Fergus McMullen, Independent Chair Community Liaison Group  
Katie Price, HMP The Mount  
Anthony Roche, North Herts DC  
Layla Allen, Citizens Advice Witness Service  
Tom Moreton, Deputy Director for Hertfordshire, BeNCH CRC  
Beth Stamp, HMCTS

Item	Updates
1	<p><b>Introductions &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were noted as above.</p>
2.	<p><b>Chair's Introduction</b></p> <p>PCC elections are taking place on 6th May. As such we are now in the pre-election period and today's HCJB meeting is a scaled down meeting which will cover business as usual activity. There are no decisions being made but some items to be noted for the June meeting agenda.</p> <p>Activity continues to focus on recovery from covid-19 and in particular the courts and we will cover this in agenda item 4 today. I met with HMCTS colleagues on Tuesday and had a good discussion about the issues currently being faced. Myself and CM can update more on this later.</p>

	<p>We have the Governments roadmap to lifting restrictions now laid out which saw the first step earlier this month with schools re-opening. We have to consider the impact that lifting restrictions will have on the criminal justice system and what we are anticipating to see in terms of crime levels over the next 6 months.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Review of minutes and Action Log from 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the discussion.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Performance &amp; Recovery</b></p> <p>CB took the Board through the 12-month CJ performance report:</p> <p>Some areas of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recorded crime is still to return to 2019 level (assuming it will return to this level when all restrictions lift). 2020 level is down 12% on the previous year. The exception to this is DA which is above 2019 levels.</li> <li>• Capacity was looking better for CC trials in December 2020 but dipped again in January 2021 (with latest lockdown).</li> <li>• Capacity peaked in November / December 2020 in the Mags.</li> <li>• There is pressure on victim and witness support with either increased caseload, increased complexity of cases or retaining cases for a lot longer.</li> <li>• CPS agreed to PPMG (Performance &amp; Programme Management Group) to dip sample cases that have been finalised after a number of hearings to try and identify any trends, issues and learnings.</li> </ul> <p>CW noted the increase in presentations from victims and survivors of sexual abuse. NHS England has now twice increased its capacity for talking therapies for those who have been victims of sexual abuse.</p> <p>The Chair discussed a possible wider review of the DA figures – e.g., how much is interfamilial / intimate? This could be something to explore more at a future meeting. SE would support this and these conversations have been had at the early intervention &amp; prevention subgroup. Also, it would be good to get a sense of the services and support that has worked well to get improved coverage across the County.</p> <p>CM updated that there has been a slow and steady increase in trial courts at St Albans. Had to do lots of work in the building to ensure jurors and others are safe in the court room but also in the deliberation room and while eating lunch.</p> <p>NS noted the Governments emphasis on swift administration of justice, particularly for youths where they are putting in to a learning experience. This becomes increasingly difficulty the further the distance between the commission of the crime and the introduction of the intervention.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Data presented going forward to look in more detail at victim / witness attrition.</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Liaison &amp; Diversion Service / Community Sentence Treatment Requirement update</b></p> <p><b>Liaison &amp; Diversion</b> The extended Liaison and Diversion service launched this time last year with a challenging start, operating in police custody during the pandemic.</p> <p>Reach and health needs identified – high level of mental health needs; 374 out of the 604 adults. Small number identified with learning disability needs and a larger number with substance misuse needs. Many will have multiple needs.</p> <p>They track how many make it to their first appointment – mental health, substance misuse and alcohol referrals.</p> <p><b>Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (CSTRs)</b> When commissioned the Liaison &amp; Diversion Service, NHS England also entered into an agreement with the provider to additionally provide the talking therapies for CSTRs. NHS England are responsible for the commissioning of the mental health services and colleagues in Local Authority are responsible for the commissioning of substance and alcohol misuse service. CSTRs are all about collaboration amongst a number of parties in order to stimulate their use by Sentencers.</p> <p>White paper published about 2 months ago that talks about the move to integrated care systems. CSTRs show how integrated care systems might work to bring stakeholders together to commission services that span a number of interests.</p> <p>CA commented that the feedback from custody staff is how fantastic and proactive the Liaison &amp; Diversion team have been. Grateful that they have been able to come in despite the Covid issues.</p> <p>PM highlighted from the Defence community, the excellent work of the Liaison &amp; Diversion service. Do hope it becomes an integral part moving forward.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Forward Look</b></p> <p>Discussed areas that the Board would like to look at in the June meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First look at a Criminal Justice Plan</li> <li>• Racial disparity</li> <li>• Virtual HCJB public meeting</li> <li>• Domestic Abuse - Jenny Coles / DCI Ben Wright to be invited to present more detail at the next meeting</li> </ul>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>Updates have been forwarded to the group on the Common Platform and from the Legal Aid Agency. An update was also sent in advance of the meeting by Jaswant Narwal at CPS.</p> <p>CA – Doing a lot of work around listings particularly in the Magistrates – making sure utilising listing patterns effectively. Been attending the SE regional working group with the District Judges – helped them to understand some of the police challenges too. Making some progress in the Magistrates Courts and starting to in the Crown too.</p>

Volume of cases – large number of cases are ones that haven’t come on yet and witness care unit have put additional contacts in. Now monitoring the length of time taken to come to trial and whether there have been any trial adjournments in any of our victim & witness attrition.  
New VCOP launches on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

SE – Noted that the numbers are limited for CSTRs for reasons that have been explained by Clare Weston – as numbers pick up, would welcome a future discussion on this and ability to look at outcomes.

KM – Good to see focus on victim & witness attrition and that focus on understanding where we see a drop off – number of adjournments or length of time where we see people withdrawal. Help see where we need to put in additional support.  
With regards to DA, HCC and team are doing work on DA pathways – ensure we are integrated with this work and joined up.

PM – Shouldn’t restrict ourselves to Hertfordshire court estate and we are currently utilising other areas. This a robust approach. We don’t want issues to start developing with the estate at a time when we see a spoke in work. Would encourage a more proactive approach to the current court estate. CM noted that there is a maintenance plan for courts and there is significant investment in this at the moment.

Next meeting: **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 13.00-16.00**