

Minutes

9th December 2019: 13.00-16.30

OSB A&B Briefing Rooms

Police Headquarters, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6XF

Attendees:

David Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner and Chairman
 Jaswant Narwal, Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS Thames and Chiltern
 Nicole Adeyinka, Area Manager, Citizen's Advice Witness Service
 Catherine Akehurst, T/Chief Supt., BCH Criminal Justice & Custody
 Christopher Barclay, Criminal Justice Research and Performance Analyst, OPCC
 Dr. Amie Birkhamshaw, Director of Strategy, Herts OPCC
 Stephen Carroll, Director, BeNCH CRC
 Sharn Elton, East and North Herts CCG, NHS
 Charlie Hall, Chief Constable, Herts Police
 Oksana Harris, National Probation Service
 Kevin McGetrick, Head of Commissioning & Victim Services, OPCC
 Fergus McMullen, Independent Member & Chair of the Community Liaison Group
 Sara Miles, CJ Policy & Research Manager, OPCC
 Natalie Robinson-Chatterley, HMCTS (via Skype)
 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
 Katie Price, Governor, HMP The Mount (via Skype)
 Bethan McPhee, Executive Assistant, OPCC (Secretariat)

Apologies:

Nathan Briant, Assistant Chief Constable, Herts Police
 Paul Millan, Noble Solicitors
 Karl Stonebank, Grants and Funds Officer, OPCC
 Ian Miller, HMCTS
 Neeve Bishop, National Probation Service

	Item	Updates
1.	Introductions & Apologies	The Chairman welcomed board members. Introductions were made and apologies were noted as above.
2.	Minutes from last meeting and Review of Action Log	The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true record. For a review of the actions, please see separate document.

3.	Chairman's briefing	<p>The Chair highlighted the current items being looked at by the National Criminal Justice Board (NCJB):</p> <p>Serious sexual offences. The serious sexual offences and rape review is coming to the conclusion of its evidence gathering phase (this has been literature review and interviews with researchers & support services.) This will inform the action and implementation plan due to be published in Spring.</p> <p>Disclosure subgroup - Preparing for public consultation on revision to Attorney Generals disclosure guidelines.</p> <p>Case progression - Sub groups agreed 2 priority areas; deep dive into victims and witness engagement and working with HQ for deep dive into police file quality (there is no timeline for this).</p> <p>Forensics - Forensics in Court deep dive reporting back in Jan. There will be a second deep dive on market capacity for forensics.</p>
4.	Performance Monitoring	<p>HCJB Performance Dashboard – exception reporting : Some key highlights from the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse conviction rate was low for the quarter at 69.4%. It was noted that the conviction rate can be quite varied quarter by quarter. The Programme & Performance Monitoring Group is looking into this and will be reporting back to the next meeting in March. • Rape outcome rates have improved since 2018 however are still low when you look at the number of rapes recorded. The Board agreed to investigate further. <p>File Quality: The link between File Quality and performance needs to be made: Guilty pleas at first hearing. If sufficient evidence – no reason why there shouldn't be a high guilty plea rate.</p> <p>All sorts of factors come into play in order to achieve good file quality. The importance of this can't be underestimated. Rachel Mort (CPS) will be attending the next PPMG meeting to explain about file quality from triaging to charging.</p> <p>Delivery Plans: The suggestion is that for each group, they have a plan on a page – which is easily accessible, very clear and can be uploaded easily onto the website.</p> <p>The subgroups have all reviewed their delivery plans for the coming year and identified some new areas for action. These will be uploaded on to the website.</p> <p>It is proposed that there is no longer a formal Communications Subgroup - but that each group takes responsibility for effective communications with partners and the public. There will be a communications calendar to identify opportunities to share work and a twitter account will be set up for the HCJB. The digital innovation subgroup will oversee this and own the communications strategy going forward.</p>

5.	Tactical Knife Crime (Deterrent Sentencing)	<p>A presentation was shared with the group.</p> <p>Serious Violent Crime Strategy: A big piece of work being done now across the partnership. Particularly when young people are first brought to the partnerships notice. There are many groups set up and in place to support young people and there is hard work being done to make a more integrated offer.</p> <p>Based on the figures in the above presentation, 7% of referrals from schools seems to be low given that that was the focus of the group. It was questioned as to how linked that work is, with Youth Connexions who do work in schools.</p>
6.	LCJB Funding Paper	<p>SM tabled a paper outlining the proposal for members of the HCJB to make financial contributions to the secretariat of the Board to support its effective running and management.</p> <p>It was agreed that Sara would contact each of the partners to discuss the proposed contributions in more detail.</p> <p>There is no national consensus which helps steer the group on this. Across the Country each CJB has their own way of funding support.</p>
7.	HMPPS	<p>Probation Inspection:</p> <p>The Chair suggested to the group that the County Council and Constabulary should consider how to support probation under the one public estate strategy. That there might be the possibility of including some facilities for the Probation Service to use within the development of some of the police stations.</p> <p>It was noted that alongside these improvements is the probation service transformation programme. This is a long term 2 year project. A Transition Board has been set up with leads from NPS and CRC. It was recommended to keep the Board up to date with changes to enable them to identify any challenges and opportunities with the new model.</p> <p>Emerging model: Target operating model to be released in the new year and will be on the MoJ web pages. Offender management function will merge, this will become the National Probation Service. CRCs will cease to exist. This region will be the East Region; BENCH, Essex, Norfolk & Suffolk. The Regional Probation Director is Steve Johnson Proctor.</p> <p>It was suggested that probation transition should be a standing agenda item and Steve Johnson-Proctor should be invited to a future Board meeting.</p>
8.	<p>1. Liaison & Diversion Service in Herts</p> <p>2. Development of the Herts Sexual Assault Referral Centre service</p>	<p>1. Liaison & Diversion Service in Herts :</p> <p>This service should be operational by 1st April 2020. A Community Sentence Treatment Requirement steering group has been set up with partners.</p> <p>2. Development of the Herts Sexual Assault Referral Centre service (SARCs):</p> <p>The talking therapy service pilot has been operating in Herts for 15 months. An independent evaluation has been commissioned.</p>

9.	Criminal Justice Innovation Bids	<p>Four bids were put before the Board today and papers sent in advance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Mungo's (Herts Community Rent Deposit Scheme): £30,000 • Stevenage Borough Council - Adult Offender Protocol for Herts: £31,000 • Belong: Making Justice Happen - Cost benefit analysis in relation to Restorative Approaches projects @ HMP The Mount £26,372 • Safer Places - Bridging Better Futures £34,860 <p>No bids were recommended at this stage for funding.</p>
11.	Any Other Business	<p>Efficiency Subgroup</p> <p>It was suggested that this be set up and run alongside the other subgroups and ultimately feed into the Main Board, based on awareness and understanding of its benefits in other areas. There were no objections to this and was noted that the Terms of Reference need to be clear.</p> <p>Victims & Witness insights:</p> <p>To get experiences of witnesses at scale using the Echo platform. This is a pilot which will run for 6 months at St Albans Crown court and Stevenage Magistrates, starts this week. This will give some valuable insight at scale into the experiences of V&W using the system.</p>
12.	Future Agenda Items	<p>File quality</p> <p>Three Rivers to attend and give feedback on their DA perpetrator programme.</p> <p>Probation Transition.</p> <p>Rape – outcome review.</p>
	Next Meeting	<p>19th March 13.00 – 16.30 @ Police HQ, Welwyn Garden City</p>