

Agenda item a2

Sussex Criminal Justice Board Meeting Minutes

12:30 – 13:20hrs, Wednesday 18th December 2019
Surrey Police HQ, Schofield Room, Guildford GU3 1HG

1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations – Katy Bourne

Katy Bourne	Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (Chair Person)	KB
Frank Ferguson	CCP CPS - South East (Vice Chair Person)	FF
Jenny Offord	CPS	JO
Mark Streater	Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	MSt
HH Judge Gold	Judiciary	HHJG
Manjinder Purewal	KSS Community Rehabilitation Company	MP
Dave Manning	HM Courts & Tribunals Service	DMa
Julia Chapman	Sussex Police	JC
Simon Nelson	Sussex Police	SN
Rob McCauley	Legal Aid Agency	RM
Jo Last	Citizens Advice – Witness Service	JL
David Smith	Frame Solicitors	DS
Bruce Tippen	SSCJP Business Manager	BT
Lindsey Parris	SSCJP	LP

Apologies received from:

<i>Mark Burden</i>	<i>HM Prison and Probation Service</i>	<i>MB</i>
<i>Claire Mullarkey</i>	<i>HM Courts & Tribunals Service</i>	<i>CM</i>
<i>Stephen Fradley</i>	<i>HMP Ford</i>	<i>SF</i>
<i>Susan Howard</i>	<i>HM Prison and Probation Service</i>	<i>SH</i>
<i>Kay Birch</i>	<i>Victim Support</i>	<i>KB</i>
<i>Joanna Brennan</i>	<i>Youth Justice Board</i>	<i>JB</i>
<i>Nicola Maxwell</i>	<i>Sussex YOS</i>	<i>NM</i>
<i>Tania Riedel</i>	<i>Sussex YOS (failed dial-in)</i>	<i>TR</i>
<i>Samantha Allen</i>	<i>Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust</i>	<i>SA</i>
<i>Rebecca Hills</i>	<i>Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust</i>	<i>RH</i>
<i>Hannah Lane</i>	<i>HMP Lewes</i>	<i>HL</i>
<i>Emily King</i>	<i>West Sussex County Council (failed dial-in)</i>	<i>EK</i>
<i>Jo Player</i>	<i>Brighton and Hove City Council</i>	<i>JP</i>
<i>Justine Armstrong-Smith</i>	<i>East Sussex County Council</i>	<i>JAS</i>
<i>Susanne Jarman</i>	<i>Citizens Advice – Witness Service</i>	<i>SJ</i>
<i>Violet Hancock</i>	<i>High Sheriff – East Sussex</i>	<i>VH</i>
<i>Davina Irwin-Clark</i>	<i>High Sheriff West Sussex</i>	<i>DIC</i>

Absent:

Wendy Penfold	Public Health England	WP
Vicky Robinson	HMP Bronzefield	VR
Ian Whiteside	HMP Bronzefield	IW
Alison Fowler	NHS England	AF

KB welcomed all to the SCJB meeting and in particular RJ HH Judge Gold and ACC Julia Chapman.

Declarations of Interest:

None received

2. Minutes and Rolling Action Log from previous meeting 11th September 2019

The minutes of the previous SCJB meeting were agreed as an accurate record. The Action Log (separate document) was discussed and updated.

3. Reducing Re-Offending

Women's Justice – Milestones/Co-Operative Proposal

SN reported MoJ funding for the project will cease from 31st March 2020 and he is seeking support from members to establish a Women's Co-Operative approach to continue/extend the work of the programme through 2020 and beyond with tangible legacy options. This will involve holding a workshop scheduled for 28th January 2020 where a mapping exercise will take place to share good practice ideas across Sussex from existing providers, discuss how other consortium bidding options have been successful and identify who is best placed to progress this work. The desirable outcomes and next steps would be to:

- To further define and agree the aims of the co-operative
- Understand which key organisations need to be at the core of the co-operative
- Taking a systems leadership approach
- Establish an operational co-operative in readiness to commission for the new fiscal year
- Transfer learning and good practice to other funding streams

Decision: Members agreed with this approach and confirmed their support

KB offered the support of her office with any help with regards to bid writing if required.

Homeless Offenders – Update on current initiatives

BT had circulated a paper for the Board drawing together three pieces of work summarising progress and barriers. Members noted the paper and KB asked that this item be deferred until next meeting as several key members were not in attendance.

4. Performance Overview

BT reported an example of disparity continues to exist in relation to offence to completion rates in Sussex (Crown Courts) where Sussex cases have been taking about 10 weeks longer than national averages (over 50 weeks). Data indicates that 30 weeks is used on average prior to charge and 30 weeks after charge to conclusion of case. Latest quarter shows improvement nearer to national average. Tighter control mechanisms are being introduced to manage cases released under investigation to provide improved governance on timeliness. Courtroom closures will impact on timeliness after charge. This issue is being monitored through the Core Performance Group Action Plan.

DS reported some defendants are aware of the lengthy timescales of getting their trial heard in the Crown Court and as such defendants often choose to plead not guilty knowing they could get up to 9 months in the community out on bail.

HHJG highlighted again the reduction of court sitting days across Surrey and Sussex and noted there is currently only one Judge sitting at Guildford Crown Court and only four out of ten Judges are sitting at Lewes Crown Court.

5. Sussex Priorities and Funding Contributions

KB raised concerns regarding attendance levels at meetings held outside of Sussex, particularly with Local Authorities and other local organisations with travel and time demands and how this impacts on an effective partnership. Dial-in is not always available or ideal as observed earlier. KB referenced a previous study conducted independently that members may wish to refresh themselves with (CREST) and considered that although the key priorities and funding had been discussed the operating arrangements would need reviewing to ensure good attendance and participation levels. The current format of the SSCJP meetings are not helpful for enabling a meaningful and productive Sussex focussed meeting.

KB proposed Sussex hold their own separate Criminal Justice Board meetings.

Several members raised their concern with this approach particularly in terms of managing their attendance if the meetings were separated.

Action: BT to re-circulate the CREST report and consult with members for views and comments.

6. AOB

Youth Perpetrators – Information for Courts

BT updated the group on the meetings being held between RJ Judge Laing, CPS and YOS regarding provision of vulnerable young people attending courts as defendants. Deferred to the next meeting – dial-in failed.

Reminder – Election of SCJB Chair Person 2020

BT reminded members the election or re-election of a SCJB Chair Person will take place at the next SCJB meeting on 4th March 2020. KB has indicated she would be happy to continue in this role subject to other expressions of interest. Any nominations for Chair Person should be submitted to SCJB@Sussex.pnn.police.uk

BT reported HM Ford Governor and SSCJP member Stephen Fradley will be leaving his post on 6th January 2020.

Action: BT to prepare a letter of thanks on behalf of SSCJP and send to SF.

BT reported SSCJP member Emily King has been promoted to Temporary Director of Communities at West Sussex County Council.

Close – Katy Bourne

KB thanked members for their time and input during the meeting.

Future Meeting:

Wednesday 4th March 2020 – Sackville House, Lewes BN7 2FZ