



Sussex Criminal Justice Board Meeting Minutes

12:20 – 13:30hrs, Wednesday 5th June 2019
Surrey Police HQ, Schofield Room, GU3 1HG

1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations – Frank Ferguson

Frank Ferguson	Chief Crown Prosecutor - South East (Vice Chairman)	FF
Jenny Offord	CPS	JO
Mark Streater	Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	MSt
Dave Manning	HM Courts & Tribunals Service	Dma
Manjinder Purewal	KSS Community Rehabilitation Company	MP
Nick May	Sussex Police (<i>dial in</i>)	NM
Robin Brennan	HM Prison and Probation Service	RB
Sarah Coccia	HM Prison and Probation Service	SC
Tania Riedel	Sussex YOS	TR
Emily King	West Sussex County Council	EK
Karen Friel	Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	KF
Rebecca Hills	Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RH
Maralyn Smith	Victim Support	MS
Bruce Tippen	SSCJP Business Manager	BT
Lindsey Parris	SSCJP	LP

Apologies received from:

<i>Katy Bourne</i>	<i>Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (Chairman)</i>	<i>KB</i>
<i>Stephen Fradley</i>	<i>HMP Ford</i>	<i>SF</i>
<i>Wendy Tattersall</i>	<i>Public Health England</i>	<i>WT</i>
<i>Simon Nelson</i>	<i>Sussex Police</i>	<i>SN</i>
<i>Jason Taylor</i>	<i>Sussex Police</i>	<i>JT</i>
<i>Samantha Allen</i>	<i>Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust</i>	<i>SA</i>
<i>Justine Armstrong-Smith</i>	<i>East Sussex County Council</i>	<i>JAS</i>
<i>Jo Player</i>	<i>Brighton and Hove City Council</i>	<i>JP</i>
<i>Sam Sanderson</i>	<i>Sussex Police</i>	<i>SS</i>
<i>Rob McCauley</i>	<i>Legal Aid Agency</i>	<i>RM</i>
<i>Mark Burden</i>	<i>HM Prison and Probation Service</i>	<i>MB</i>

Absent:

Claire Mullarkey	HMCTS	CM
Susanne Jarman	Citizens Advice – Witness Service	SJ
Anne Elgeti	NHS England	AE
Vicky Robinson	HMP Bronzefield	VR
Ian Whiteside	HMP Bronzefield	IW
Rodney Warren	Warrens Solicitors	RW

FF welcomed members to the SCJB meeting and reported unfortunately Chairman Katy Bourne was unable to attend the meeting due to other pressing commitments.

Declarations of Interest:

None received

2. Minutes and Rolling Action Log from previous meeting 25th March 2019

The minutes of the previous SCJB meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

The Action Log (separate document) was discussed and updated.

Action 144: JT to carry out at RUI review and report back at the next meeting - *Work in progress. JT to update the SCJB at the September meeting. On-going*

Action 145: SS to meet with TR to discuss how complex cases for 16 year olds are being linked in with Youth Services in Sussex - *Meeting arranged for 7th June 2019. On-going*

3. Liaison and Diversion - Launch of new service

KF reported Sussex Liaison and Diversion Service (formerly The Police and Court Liaison and Diversion Service (PCLDS)) has been awarded a contract by NHS England to continue the service in Sussex.

The new model has been strengthened following a re-think with a lot more emphasis on STAR workers. These resources will help access and diversion from police custody and also bolster workers in the community. The main focus will be on police referrals and court services. Specialist provision for youth and additional funding from the PCC aims to raise our service from being "very good" to "outstanding". A soft launch will happen in early September to promote the new service. The service will comprise of health professionals from various backgrounds, including nursing, occupational therapy, learning disability and speech and language therapy. It will operate seven days a week from 8am until 8pm on a priority basis across all custody suites in Sussex. The service will also offer support in Magistrates and Crown Courts.

KF added we are so pleased to have been successful in our application to be able to continue to offer this service and look forward to working in close partnership with our NHS England commissioner and partner agency colleagues.

The new funding will enable us to continue to focus on improving the health and justice outcomes for adults and young people who come into contact with the youth and criminal justice system where there are a range of complex needs identified as factors in their offending behaviour.

First launched in 2014 the service works closely with partner organisations including Sussex Police, Probation Services and HMCTS.

For people suspected of committing criminal offences it is essential that relevant information about their mental health and wellbeing is identified at the earliest opportunity and shared with the partner agencies involved.

A journey through the criminal justice system can have many different outcomes. Whatever the outcome justice is best served when information is made available in a timely manner. Before PCLDS this type of information either wasn't available or would take weeks to obtain. The new service model will have an emphasis on STAR workers (Support Time and Recovery) along with the introduction of Peer Apprentices into the service. This is a new way of working but we are confident that it will enhance and strengthen the service.

EK reported this was a good news story and encouraged KF raise the profile of this service by sharing information widely with partners.

BT reported the new service expands into voluntary attendance suites and will be a key element of the Checkpoint initiative going forward.

4. Homeless Offenders – Event outcomes/Next steps

BT reported SCJB hosted a workshop at the Offices of the Sussex PCC to assess the outcomes from the Homeless Offenders Event at Ford Prison on 26th March 2019.

Workshop attendees included key speakers and themed table hosts from the event at Ford Prison, SCJB members and District and Borough representatives.

The aim of the workshop was to review the key points raised by delegates and set some objectives and action points. BT handed out a "hot debrief" from the workshop.

BT posed the following questions:

- Q1. Are LCJBs doing enough to help staff and clients provide guidance to homeless people/offenders?
- Q2. Are we intervening at the right time? - (strong support for earlier work)

- Q3. Do CJ partners have effective links with Districts and Boroughs, Strategic Housing Groups and Third Sector?
- Q4. Are we confident that we know what is happening? (Mapping exercise)
- Q5. Are we able to co-ordinate an effective response to these issues?
- Q6. Are we making best use of available resources?

BT asked board members to consider and support the following recommendations:

- SCJB confirms 'reducing homelessness for offenders' as key priority for 2019-20 - **'Preventing Victims by Changing Lives'**
- Establish a tasking group to take operational actions forward
- Identify lead officer/consider co-ordinator role
- SCJB/CJ Partners to 'reach-out' to Strategic Housing Groups
- Co-ordinate a mapping-exercise
- Develop support mechanisms – training, early intervention, wrap-around support to obtain/retain tenancies (landlords and tenants)
- Co-ordinate/seek funding options
- SCJB act as lobby group for future change

BT reported on 4th June 2019 he presented this item at the West Sussex Executive Board who supported the approach but raised concern around funding for high risk offenders.

EK highlighted the ongoing issue regarding a lack of housing stock in Sussex and not helped by the lack of funding and the economic climate.

EK also noted private landlords are not engaging well in terms of offering accommodation for Syrian refugees and felt their engagement in offering accommodation to homeless offenders would also be a huge challenge.

FF asked members to consider, agree and support the recommendations proposed. **Agreed**

EK reported WSCC have recently appointed a post holder and would be willing to offer their services for approximately 3 months to assist with this work – particularly the mapping exercise.

EK added there are notable differences between the 3 local authorities with regards to how they manage their housing stock which will need to be considered going forward.

Members agreed a tasking group should be set up to include CJ partners, local authorities, district and boroughs and third sector.

Action: BT to set up and arrange a housing offender tasking group.

BT reported it will be important to identify who will carry out the co-ordinator role, take this work forward and pull all the strands of this work together.

BT reported housing for high risk offenders was also of great concern following the loss of funding (£280k) from West Sussex County Council. The tasking group need to consider this.

MSt reported the OSPCC has been in discussions with Natalie Brahma-Pearl – Chief Executive of Crawley Borough Council and a working group has been set up to try and raise funds to collectively maintain existing housing stock for high risk offenders. Key stakeholders will be Districts and Boroughs, Sussex PCC and NPS. Liaison with the new tasking group will be required going forward.

5. Lewes Prison – Report Update

SC noted HMP Lewes is a complex old Victorian prison with no room for expansion. Following an inspection in 2016 the prison fell into further decline primarily due to a vast loss of experienced prison staff. In 2017 the prison was placed into special measures however additional funding to address the issue was never received. By the end of 2018 the right compliment of prison staff were in post but there still remains 22 management roles to be filled. The prison continues to work with commissioners for health and education providers to improve services.

SC reported the most recent inspection was carried out on the first day the new governor was in post which was challenging. There are now processes and actions in place to help improve standards going forward. An independent review process will be carried out prior to the next inspection.

SC added she is confident things will improve at HMP Lewes going forward.

MSt reported the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner is due to meet the new governor imminently.

SC confirmed there are no current plans to close HMP Lewes.

6. Women's Justice – Year 3 Activities

BT reported there were three main areas of focus for year 3 activities:

- Focus on the top ten most complex women across Sussex
- Working with NPS/Courts to give updates at court stage to inform their report writing and inform sentencing benches. Meetings to ascertain viewpoints about sentencing decisions and how WSA approach can assist.
- Accommodation – working with a range of pan Sussex housing providers to secure bespoke accommodation for women.

BT reported SS will prepare a report for MoJ outlining how the funding has been spent over the 3 years and what achievements and initiatives have been developed.

EK suggested the accommodation piece of work should be joined up with the homeless offenders accommodation project.

7. Sussex Performance Overview

BT reported file quality rate for Magistrates Court work has dipped below the control line for the latest quarter. Data indicates less than 50% of files for 'not-guilty' cases were of an acceptable standard. This issue was highlighted at the Core Performance Group (CPG) where file quality remains a key priority. Sussex Police has rolled-out mandatory supervisor reviews as part of its ongoing File Quality Action Plan to address this situation. Sussex Police will also benchmark its process with Avon and Somerset, a good performing similar force. CPG is working to achieve consistency of data.

FF noted the next meeting of the File Quality Gold Group is scheduled for 11th June 2019.

BT also flagged the disparity between Sussex and the national average for time taken, offence to completion for work going through the Crown Court. RUI and disclosure will have contributed to this situation. Ineffective Trial rates are high.

DMA noted that there is significant pressure on listing capacity at Lewes Crown Court and we may be facing further reductions. However, Lewes Crown Court does have the lowest outstanding trial rate in its recent history.

BT reported since January 2018 there has been improvement with RASSO conviction rates.

8. AOB

The Reboot paper was noted.

MSt reported the Reboot programme is working well and a more comprehensive update would be given by John Willett at the next meeting on 11th September 2019.

Close – Frank Fergusson

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

Future Meeting:

Wednesday 11th September 2019 – OSPCC, Sackville House, Lewes BN7 2FZ