



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

INFORMATION REPORT TO THE THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 7th April 2017

PCC AND THE WIDER CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Background

Section 10 (3) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 states “The elected local policing body for a police area, and the criminal justice bodies which exercise functions as criminal justice bodies in that police area, must make arrangements (so far as it is appropriate to do so) for the exercise of functions so as to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the police area”.

Within the Thames Valley Police (TVP) area, those functions are exercised through the Thames Valley Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB).

Constitution of the TV LCJB

All of the local criminal justice agencies are represented on the Thames Valley LCJB, namely:

- Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner
- Thames Valley Police
- Thames & Chiltern Crown Prosecution Service
- HM Courts & Tribunals Service
- Thames Valley Probation
- Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
- HM Prison Service
- Youth Offending Service
- Legal Aid Agency

The board is further supported by Victim Support, Witness Service, Health – PH England & NHS England and a representative of the Local Authority Chief Executives.

Purpose and Vision

The purpose and vision of the LCJB is to reduce crime, harm and risk by increasing the efficiency and credibility of the Criminal Justice System (CJS). By

working in partnership, the board aims to improve services to the public with the minimum costs, supported by the best available evidence.

Leadership Statement

The LCJB is committed to delivering a high quality of service to the communities of Thames Valley, focussed on the needs of the individual, irrespective of background. Together we recognise that trust, confidence and equality are key factors in being able to work successfully with our communities to reduce crime, harm and risk. All staff within each organisation will play a part in that.

Role of the Chairperson

Historically agencies have shared the role of chairperson between the Police, Courts, Probation and CPS lead officers. There has normally been a two year tenure period and succession has been in rotation and by the agreement of members of the Board. A collaborative, collective and committed approach to managing the work of the Board, rather than the adoption of voting, ensures mutual support to initiatives and a clear partnership focus to delivery of the purpose and vision. A deputy chair is usually nominated by the chairperson.

The current Chairperson, since January 2016, is the PCC for the Thames Valley (Anthony Stansfeld) and the deputy chair is the Chief Crown Prosecutor (Adrian Foster).

Priorities and Delivery 2016-17

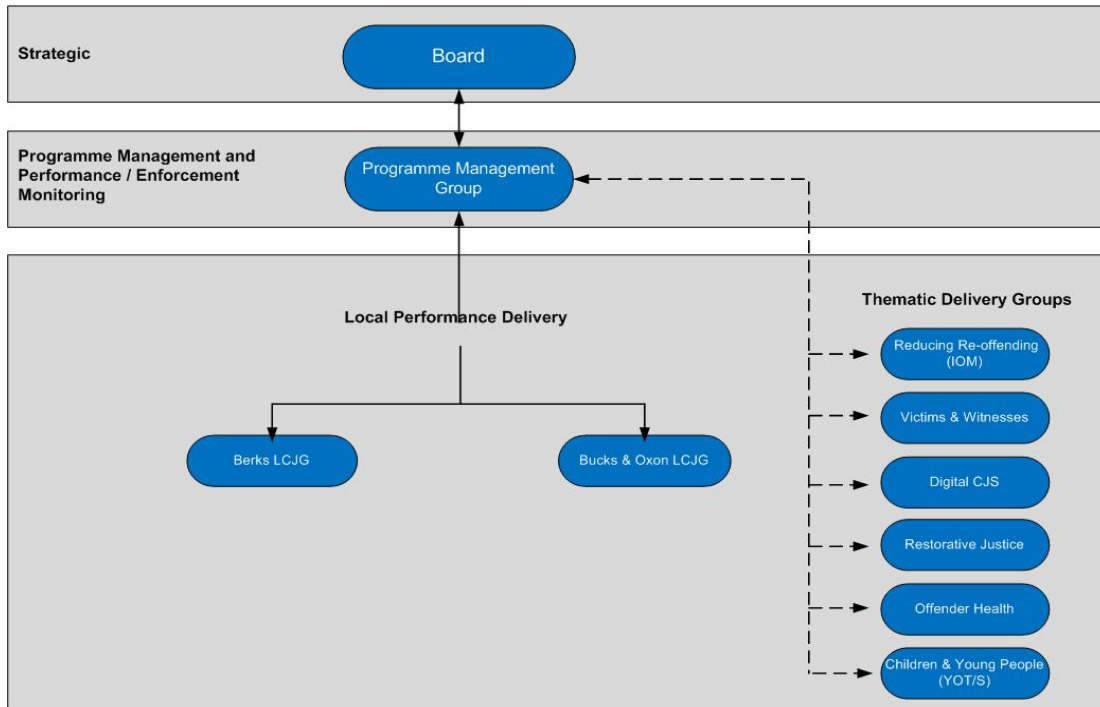
The board will meet 5 times a year to review performance and to consider and approve any new initiatives.

Priorities – priorities are determined on an annual basis and for 2016/17 they were agreed to be:

- Delivering improvements in performance across the Criminal Justice System (CJS), particularly with regard to increasing the proportion of effective trials.
- Identifying and creating efficiencies across the CJS including the delivery of digital working by all agencies and working with as little paper as possible.
- Improving victim and witness satisfaction - putting people at the centre of the CJS.
- Supporting the principle of facilitating the required Criminal Justice processes necessary to make Restorative Justice a timely, safe and efficient intervention in order to reduce re-offending and the risk of repeat victimisation.
- Reducing Re-offending – reducing crime, harm and risk by removing adult and youth offenders from the CJS, especially through the use of Integrated Offender Management.
- Improving access to health provision for offenders and reducing health inequalities.
- Supporting Children and Young People who are going through the CJS and increasing diversion from it, where appropriate.

Delivery - the Board has several delivery groups, consisting of strategic and operational agency leads. The groups will be responsible for delivery of improved performance, achieving the priorities in their area of business through strong leadership, management and supervision.

LCJB Structure 2016/17



Programme Management Group

This group has operational oversight of the whole programme of work and the performance of the criminal justice agencies. It reviews the work of the local (county-based) groups and the thematic delivery groups and reports back to the Board's strategic leads with its recommendations.

Digital CJS Thematic Delivery Group

Within the national programme, the group will effectively deliver digital working locally. Key business areas are:

- The transfer of digital evidence and case material to enable the CJS to operate with minimal paper (in and out of the courtroom).
- Embedding 'Transforming Summary Justice' TSJ (Magistrates Courts) and BCM (Crown Courts).
- The increased use of video links to reduce the amount of court attendance by both witnesses and offenders.

Victims and Witnesses Delivery Group

This group oversees victim and witness processes to ensure that the quality of customer service given is compliant with the Code of Practice for Victims and the Witness Charter. Maximising the attendance of victims and witnesses at Court, either in person or by video link, is a high priority, in addition to reducing unnecessary attendance and costs.

Restorative Justice Delivery Group

The LCJB is committed to supporting victims to access Restorative Justice (RJ) at all points in the CJS. Such provision should be available throughout Thames Valley, operate in accordance with nationally specified standards and meet the needs of both victims and offenders. The LCJB agencies commit to facilitating the required CJ processes to make RJ a timely, safe and efficient intervention, to reduce re-offending and the risk of repeat victimisation.

Reducing Re-offending Delivery Group

On behalf of the LCJB and Thames Valley Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), the group provides strategic direction to all Integrated Offender Management (IOM) activities to provide an end-to-end offender management model. The group established a clear Reducing Re-offending Strategy that has been supported by all local authority chief executives and emphasises the need for integrated service delivery. It provides encouragement to increase support for IOM by partners, including the recently created Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC).

Offender Health Delivery Group

This group has been established to specifically develop partnership working between health and justice professionals, including commissioners and providers. Service provision has been mapped to develop clear pathways of support for service users with issues relating to drug and alcohol misuse, mental health and learning disabilities. A Needs Assessment has been developed to help reduce re-offending and negate health inequalities by improving access to local health provision.

Youth Justice

The Youth Offending Team Managers meet regularly and are supporting the LCJB focus on the needs of Children & Young people in the CJS. The focus of the group is to reduce first time entrants and re-offending, take steps to de-criminalise looked after children and support youth justice.

Local Criminal Justice Groups

The Local Criminal Justice Groups operate on a county basis, bringing local CJ partners together to deliver improvements to local performance and consider local delivery requirements in support of the LCJB priorities.

Delivery – Achievements in 2016/17

TV LCJB Priorities 2016 – 2017:

- Improving CJS Performance (inc. improving proportion of effective trials)
- Promoting a Digital CJS
- Victims and Witnesses
- Restorative Justice
- Reducing Re-Offending (IOM)
- (Offender) Health & Justice
- Children & Young People

Programme Management Group (PMG) – Chair: Adrian Foster (CPS)

- **Better Case Management and Transforming Summary Justice (TSJ)** continue to support performance improvement. Recent TSJ Q3 data showed across the year that the Effective Trial Rate improved 4%. Ineffective, Vacated and Cracked Trials equally all reduced in the Magistrates Court.
- The **Fast Track Domestic Violence Trials Initiative** continues to operate across the Thames Valley. More work has been done to reserve capacity for short notice court appearances particularly in Bucks and MK. This approach is being considered in Berkshire and Oxfordshire to further improve the delivery of much faster trials for DV victims.
- A new **National File Quality Assessment** was introduced in September.

Out of Court Disposals Group – Chair: Nigel Doak (TVP)

- This multi-agency partnership provides key scrutiny of Police and Youth Offending Teams delivery of Out of Court Disposals. The group completed **detailed scrutiny of 54 adult and youth cases** across 4 meetings. In 41 (76%) cases the decision recorded was agreed with by the panel members. In 13 cases (24%) the decision did not convince the panel. Of these 13 cases members either took the view that they disagreed with the outcome entirely in 5 (9%) cases or in the other 8 (15%) cases members were not happy leading to the requirement for further clarity. A system of feedback was agreed through the year and now **in each case officers receive commentary on the outcome.**

Digital CJS Group – Chair: Philip Densham (HMCTS)

- Case material for both Magistrates and Crown Courts is now provided routinely by digital means. Work has been completed in delivery of digital **Overnight Remand work** in Buckinghamshire since the summer of 2016 and now planned is the imminent implementation in Berkshire and Oxfordshire.
- In 2016 the group oversaw the embedding of **Single Justice Procedures** in Thames Valley; a back office court process which has successfully taken over the vast majority of local Traffic prosecutions, enabled by Postal Requisition and supported by the new national **Make a Plea on line** system. The process has significantly reduced local court waiting time for traffic matters from 205 days down to just 35 days.
- **Live Link** continues to enable Police Officers to give their evidence to local court by remote Video Links. Sites at Slough, Abingdon, Bicester and Aylesbury are reducing costs and time spent by the Police giving evidence at court. **New funding** from the Force has been agreed to supply 13 additional sites across the Force area and to join a more robust Video Link Network to ensure a more stable link and improve the quality of the evidence given.
- The **Remote Video Link** sites continue to support vulnerable or intimidated victims and witnesses, located at West Berkshire Council offices at Newbury and the Law Courts at Amersham. Changes to the Bicester site will mean moving the equipment to Banbury Magistrates Court.

Victims and Witnesses Group – Chair: Emma Garside (TVP) (Ruth Bowskill, CPS)

- Improved guidance has been provided to officers in their use of **Interpreters and Intermediaries**. The number of occasions where these are now correctly used is consequently improving.
- **Victim and Witness Complaints** - Locally we responded to the national report from the Victims Commissioner; information from all agencies regarding their individual complaints processes and points of contact were collated. A composite complaints information sheet was produced, circulated to all for use by all agencies and as a point of reference for complainants. This document is routinely available in witness rooms at court. The process for multiple agency complaints was consequently made more robust.
- In relation to **Victim Personal Statements** (VPS), processes have been improved following a review of the MET Police guidance; received and adapted for TVP use, including the need for VPS inclusion at 1st Hearing File. The guidance is regularly sent to officers as part of VPS requests from the Evidential Review Officers and Witness Care Unit. It is also available on the force 'Knowzone'.
- A Victims Workshop (3rd Nov 2016) reviewed **Special Measures requests**

and Witness Notifications. Long delays had been acknowledged through the year and a new CPS case allocation process was introduced, with clear escalation routes for Witness Care Officers. This has enabled faster turn-around and earlier decision making for these requests, which ensures witnesses are informed of the outcome in a timelier manner.

- Local agencies have supported the CPS in delivery of their '**Speaking to Witnesses at Court**' initiative. Recent survey shows 95% happy with CPS Service and almost 9 out of 10 (89.5%) felt they were given enough information or support by the CPS to prepare them for the court experience.

Restorative Justice Group – Chair: Stephen Czajewski (James Hahn, TVP)

- The Restorative Justice Group has continued to support the work of Thames Valley RJ Services in **developing clear pathways for accessing RJ** by both victims and offenders.
- **Victim-led RJ** is increasing, supported by an Information Officer embedded in the Witness Care Unit. The Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) has commissioned the **Offender-led RJ** work which is equally increasing. An initiative has commenced at Oxford Crown Court to capture some **Pre-sentence RJ** referrals. Finally, the prison governor for Springhill/Grendon prison has successfully introduced use of **RJ in Prison** and this approach is being shared across other prisons in Thames Valley.
- A successful conference was held in November to highlight the use of Restorative Justice and **celebrate 15 years of TVRJ Services**. The event brought together key stakeholders and professionals to hear about some excellent case studies and good practice examples, which has helped place them as a leading provider of RJ services.

Reducing Re-Offending (IOM) Group – Joint Chairs: Jason Hogg (TVP) / Gabriel Amahwe (CRC)

- Continuous **local review of Offender Resettlement & Rehabilitation Pathways** including Drugs and Alcohol, Accommodation, Education, Training & Employment and Health. These are now being supported by the new prison 'Through the Gate' services in addition to IOM teams.
- The Reducing Re-Offending Strategy has been consulted on with local CSPs and **new partnership approaches** are developing to implement packages of support for a wider cohort of offenders. The focus on Serious Acquisitive Crime has been expanded to include Domestic Abuse perpetrators, Organised Crime Group members and Sex Offenders.
- **Offender Electronic Monitoring arrangements** continue to be evaluated and extended across key areas of TV, which has greatly supported the supervision and monitoring of offenders. In some cases non-compliance evidence has supported prosecutions. Funding is secured for 2017-18.
- The **Community Rehabilitation Company** has embedded its transitional

arrangements and integrated further into Probation Service delivery, both in the community and in prison.

Health & Justice Group – Chair: Linda Stent (PH England)

- **Liaison & Diversion (Mental Health) Services** now operate across all custody and courts sites in Thames Valley. **New services at Milton Keynes** have come on line and this Thames Valley daytime service now provides screening and assessment for a high number of offenders in all main Police custody suites and for those appearing in court.
- **Milton Keynes MHTR** (Mental Health Treatment Requirements) Pilot continues to operate successfully. Orders directed by the court are supported by the services and the intervention and client support has delivered a highly regarded compliance rate. Further national pilots are being considered, although funding at Milton Keynes is under some risk.
- The work of this group has been acknowledged by the World Health Organisation and a presentation was delivered to an international Law Enforcement and Public Health (LEPH) conference in Amsterdam, highlighting the report '**Statistical Analysis of the Health & Well-being of Offenders supervised by Probation**' which was commissioned by the group.

Children & Young People – Chair alternates: YOT(S) Managers

- The YOT(S) Managers have overseen significant changes to structures and funding this year. They continue to manage Youth Justice Services, where **First Time Entrants and Youth Remand cases continue to reduce**. The Taylor Report and the Government Response will provide some further challenges throughout the forthcoming year.
- YOT(S) and local authorities have implemented the **De-Criminalisation of Looked after Children agreement**. Equally, YOT(S) have supported Thames Valley Police in agreeing to work within the **Concordat on Children in Custody** which ensures more appropriate (post charge) overnight accommodation; reducing these from 45 in 2015 to only 1 since Sept 2016.

Anthony Stansfeld

Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley