

Bedfordshire Board Meeting
Microsoft Teams
17th September 2020

Attendees:

Clare Kelly – (CK) Chief Exec OPCC, Chair
 Trevor Rodenhurst, (TR) Deputy Chief Constable
 Det. Supt Zara Brown, (ZB) PPU Lead Bedfordshire Police
 Jaswant Narwal, (JN) Head of Thames and Chiltern CPS
 Dave Collins, (DC) Youth Offending Services
 Pat Jennings, (PJ) Youth Offending Services
 Ian Miller, (IM) HMCTS
 Layla Allen, (LA) Witness Service
 Anna Bruce, (AB) Probation Service
 Chris Barclay, (CB) Herts OPCC Performance Analyst
 Alison Harding, (AH) National probation Service
 Natalie Robinson- Chatterly, (NRC) HMCTS
 Simon Powell, (SP) Signpost Lead
 Det. Chief Inspector Marios Wheeler, (MW) Bedfordshire Police

Support Team:

Phil McCarthy OPCC Project Manager, Police and Public Contact

Apologies:


Kathryn Holloway, PCC
 Detective Chief Supt. Dee Perkins, Beds Police – represented by Det Supt Zara brown
 Catherine Ackhurst BCH Criminal Justice -represented by DCI Marios Wheeler
 PJ Butler, HMP Bedford Governor
 Emma Osbourne,
 Jeanette Kyte
 Fiona Beazer,
 Joy Piper,


NO	TITLE	MINUTES
1.	Welcomes and Apologies	Welcome and apologies were recorded. PCC was absent due to an injury, meeting was chaired by Clare Kelly
2.	Minutes from July 2020	Minutes were agreed
3.	Matters Arising & Meeting Governance	Action record has been updated On-going actions: 16 OPCC in Beds to work with Herts OPCC and CPS to explore options for data analysis moving forward in reference to the backlog.

		<p>Data modelling will be presented to PPMG (Herts) 18/9. Will have separate meeting with OPCC following the presentation. Action on-going</p> <p>17) ACC Basra to advise the September Board on actions for file quality in reference to options paper</p> <p>This is being reviewed within a larger piece of work across Crime Directorate. ACC Basra and DCS Perkins to meet to formulate plans to tackle file quality. Update: Det.Supt. Brown to report back to the Board with an update as none was available at this time.</p> <p>New Actions:</p> <p>17/9 CK to liaise with Hazel Warden Smith to gain access for Chris's team for future Exec Performance reports.</p> <p>Action: CB to send this deep dive of the data to the Board</p> <p>Action: ZB to review this data and establish if there is an operational issue for this.</p> <p>Action: MW to report back to the board following deep dive review covering file quality.</p> <p>Action: IM to report back to the Board on Court listing and the meeting with HHJ.</p>
4	<p>Executive Performance Summary</p>	<p>Performance Report: Many areas have gone up and no particular areas that are exceptional. Warrant figures are outstanding as there is no access to Beds information portal, similar to Out of Court Disposal data.</p> <p>Action: CK to liaise with Hazel Warden Smith to gain access for Chris's team for future Exec Performance reports.</p> <p>Highlight report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First hearing in Mags Court – no data due to AOJ having to manually input the data and there is no capacity at this time to complete this. • Outstanding Cases has risen month on month. • August 2020 – over 5000 cases. Half of these are summary motoring offences. • Either way cases are just below 1000

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crown Court cases also have increased March- 518 cases to now August 592. <p>JN updated the Board that in Gold Group she attends these figures were looked at for the three force areas and look for ways to manage this – through Blitz courts and Saturday courts subject to Defence agreements in place which are required.</p> <p>Looking to identify the different type of case that can be through Saturday courts (sentencing, limitation of punishment to be given for example) All are very cognisant the level of cases are increasing across the board.</p> <p>CPS will commit to providing resources towards this if this occurs. Crown court remains a concern in the increasing listings and not been able to get through the trials in HMCTS and Judiciary. Another area being reviewed will be Blended trials - Reading are to pilot this.</p> <p>At PPMG on 18/9 will also review this. There is also a wider social concern in case of more local or regional lockdown will impact on staff and footfall of traffic attending courts and what can be placed through the courts. Remote Hearings – there has been a trend of applications being refused and CPS are mindful of that.</p> <p>Performance Dashboard: CB continued his presentation: Recorded Crime and Arrests appear to be going back to levels pre COVID-19 lockdown. Guilty Pleas in First Hearings show the Force is 39th in the league table. However, CB looked into the metrics and in fact the Force is 42nd place. Review of the performance of Police and CPS charged successful cases – there is a large disparity that shows CPS cases are more successful than Police charged cases (in terms of league tables when CPS charge the position is between 20-30 nationally compared to Police charged cases lies in 42 or 43 place)</p> <p>Action: CB to send this deep dive of the data to the Board</p> <p>Action: ZB to review this data and establish if there is an operational issue for this.</p> <p>JN added that the position may also be down to File Quality or what's served on the defence at the time. CPS lawyers not reviewing the files prior to court due to lack of time. So there could be multitude of the reasons. ZB added if this is a file quality issues there is a need to review this more deeply.</p>
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	<p>Contested Cases CB added that nationally there is jump across this area, Bedfordshire is in line with this national spike.</p> <p>Mags court conviction rate dropped by 20% placing Bedfordshire 43rd position.</p> <p>CPS charged cases – figures 79% down to 70% Police charged cases 82% down to 57% - massive drop in overall performance.</p> <p>CK asked what could be the reason behind this. MW added that the quality of police decision concerning charging is being looked at. Trying to identify common themes. His area is looking at a deep dive into this and liaising with CPS and AOJ . DCI Graham Bates in Force looking at this.</p> <p>Action: MW to report back to the board after this review.</p> <p>JW added that the change in Public interest code impacts on police related charging decision cases – as they are more lower end level cases. File quality is a known issue within the Force so would be a combination of issues that affecting these performance indicators.</p> <p>TR the force needs to drill down into this and how other regions and if they have been affected in a similar way.</p> <p>Crown Court CB updated the group – 1st hearing has seen an improvement in last quarter – but low figures.</p> <p>AH stated National Probation Service ‘On the Day’ reports and how they are quite positive in Mags Court compared to Crown Court that but looking to improve Crown Court during this recovery phase.</p> <p>Trial Listing: Discussion over the listing of trials into 2022. Current backlog is just under 600 trials.</p> <p>SP added this was a discussion point within the Victim and Witness board and how this could impact on victim disengagement. This point raised a number of issues across various crime types but the issue of victim and witness disengagement was a real prospect as trials are being listed into 2022.</p> <p>IM stated he is going to see HHJ Bishop when he returns from leave to discuss this. IW added there is a possibility that Crown court may increase from 4 to 6 pending HHJ Bishop discussion which would impact on the trial listings.</p> <p>Action: IM to report back to the Board on Court listing and the meeting with HHJ.</p>
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		<p>ZB outlined how in RASSO (Rape and Serious Sex Offences) cases victim engagement was key to ensure trials did go ahead but with such lead times that would be an increasingly difficult in what is already a very difficult area to keep victims engaged and supportive. JW added that delays already occur and some cases do go between CPS and Police numerous times, however prioritisation should be carried out to ensure correct focus on higher priority cases.</p> <p>CK asked if the board were confident that the communication over trial listings to victims and witnesses mentions the potential that the trial may be brought forward. SP has this been raised in Victims and Witnesses Board concerning and anxiety?</p> <p>Action: Regarding trial listing dates, via the Victims and Witnesses board, establish the mechanism of how this is communicated to victims and witnesses.</p> <p>Action: IM to update the main CJ Board on the prioritisation of backlogged cases</p> <p>Probation / CRC AH commented on the relatively small numbers in Supervision orders etc in Bedfordshire and is not too concerned for this area. Spikes in performance continue in this quarter but put into context with courts suspended, figures have been artificially elevated.</p>
5	Local and National Updates	During the meeting, partners have been updating the issues their organisation have been facing, no specific updates
6	Victims and Witness Group	<p>Signpost Lead, Simon POWELL was introduced by CK to the group. SP updated that the V&W group met the previous week. Highlighted issues concerning Signpost Victim care calls and the issue over staff dealing with these calls in a home setting is a high risk, that she needs urgent mitigation, now the longer term pandemic is better understood.</p> <p>TR offered to work with CK to resolve these issues around call handlers.</p> <p>Last minutes of V&W Board meeting:</p> <p> Document1 (002) (002).odt</p>
7	Reducing Re-Offending Group	<p>AH stated the Reducing Reoffending board have continued to meet during the lockdown.</p> <p>AH singled out Direction for Bedfordshire for supporting IOM and NPS during the lockdown, and adapting their work to support the partner agencies.</p>

		<p>Action: CK to write to Direction for Bedfordshire director to thank them for their work during COVID-19.</p> <p>AH continued to inform the board that IOM continued to work throughout whereas some other organisations were restricted in their dealings with offenders.</p> <p>AH added that the Government has changed the Dynamic Framework that NPS will be working to next year. The main aim is to bring all probation services back under NPS and utilise local service providers to support this especially in areas such as Addiction, Accommodation, Female offender services. YouTurn futures are drawing in together a list of stakeholders and can for others that can draw upon.</p> <p>Minutes of Reducing Reoffending Board:</p> <p> BCJB Reducing Re-Offending Minu:</p>
8	Court Recovery Plan	Plan circulated in the agenda. Plan is self-explanatory and any comments to IM.
9	Update on RASSO data	<p>ZB updated the board concerning the RASSO team moving from Emerald team in to PPU area. DCI Marie Gresswell is now the RASSO lead for the Force. DI Emma Langwith is embedded into CPS</p> <p>ZB outlined the training being proposed with staff, and also the VEO (Victim Engagement Officer) trial that is looking positive and keeping victim engaged.</p> <p>ZB outlined the rape cases that currently sit with Police and CPS and the time spans on these cases.</p> <p>ZB stated there is not enough resources to manage and supervision is the key to keeping all cases on track.</p> <p>TR stated the PPU area is stretched and recognised they are doing a good job with what resources they have and genuine steps are being taken to improve on this performance.</p> <p>JN added CPS has engagement with all three force areas with a single CPS RASSO team this is bringing consistency to this area, but cognisant there is still a lot to be done especially with cases having to go between Police and CPS multiple of times. There is a real need to prioritise these type of files to get through court backlog</p>
10	Mental Health Strategic Partners Group	CK gave an update into the MH partner group, no emerging issues. Partners reporting a 40% increase in referrals, mainly pandemic linked. MH Partners working on a new strategy for next year.
11	Correspondence	APCC letter attached to the agenda

12	AOB	<p>The terms of reference for this meeting were discussed and distributed in the agenda. Awaiting further comments from Board members if required.</p> <p>No further AOB disclosed.</p>
13	Date of next Meeting	24 th November