



**Bedfordshire Board Meeting  
Conference Room 1, Kempston Police Headquarters  
Tuesday, 19 November 2019**

**Attendees:**

Kathryn Holloway, PCC  
Clare Kelly, OPCC, Chief of Staff  
Trevor Rodenhurst, DCC, Bedfordshire Police  
Liz Mead, T/DCS Crime  
Dave Collins, Youth Offending Services  
Doug de St Aubin, BeNCH CRC  
Pat Jennings, Youth Offending Services  
Ali Smith (for Alison Harding) National probation Service

**Support Team:**

Phil McCarthy OPCC Project Manager, Police and Public Contact  
Susie Moid PCC Executive PA (minutes)

**Apologies:**

Natalie Robinson-Chatterley, HMCTS  
Jeanette Keyte, Central Beds  
Jaswant Narwal, Head of Chiltern CPS  
Gary Roberts, Luton Borough Council  
Lisa Scott, Central Bedfordshire Council  
Graeme Vann, HMP Bedford  
Supt Catherine Akehurst, BCH Criminal Justice  
Marcel Coiffait, Chief Executive, CSP

NO	TITLE	MINUTES
1.	Welcomes and Apologies	Welcome and apologies were recorded.
2.	Minutes from 16 July 2019	All agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. PCC Made an apology to our partners re: transition of staff. Chris Handley who had been working in the OPCC and who had been perfectly happy in the office – but decided the role was not for him and CJ has been temporarily picked up by Phil McCarthy whilst a permanent replacement is found.
3.	Matters Arising & Meeting Governance	The exploration of possible locations for the central Live Link Kit – still to be discussed.  Since last meeting, PCC has said that she has been to see PJ Butler, Governor of HMP Bedford and he rates the relationship that he has with Bedfordshire police as the most exemplary that he has

ever experienced in his entire prison service. And he particularly cited Op Yellow – the prevention of ‘throw overs’ around the prison perimeter. Also stated the prison been more successful in preventing the flow of substances from outside to within the prison.

PCC expressed she would like to meet the new judge, HHJ Mark Bishop. PCC said she has been meeting with the judges particularly around the family courts – she hopes everyone is aware that they have successfully brought the Drug and Alcohol courts to Bedfordshire now, and is the first PCC in country to put significant funding into them, of around £100K. Academically evaluated outcomes and ‘five years on’ for individual parents with drug and alcohol addiction show they are now 50% more likely to be drug free and children still in their care if they follow the programme alongside co-operating with the specialist support offered. Evaluated by both Brunel and Lancaster University. PCC anticipates that we will regularly bring to this board feels that the first performance update should be at three months in and, thereafter, quarterly.

**ACTION:** Office Manager of FDAC to be invited to attend the next BCJB meeting and present FDAC performance.

#### **Dangerous dogs**

Discussion concerning Dangerous Dog offences and the need to have magistrates that are used to hearing such cases. PCC said she has a number of concerns around this area.

PCC reminded the DCC that she has raised the issue of costs previously.

#### **CPS and AAJ**

T/DCS Liz Mead said in the first few months there had been a few data breaches possibly concerning the personal details on the back of MG5. However, the last figures had seen significant improvement so the messages had got out. Need to be careful we are not breaching data protection.

Discussion over the narrative concerning an action for a paper regarding Rape offences. T/DCS Liz Mead said there is some disagreement in terms of what that action is. It said both she and the Chief discussed lack of reporting of rape cases. That was not the meaning behind the paper. In Herts, Jaswant Narwal (CPS Lead) meet the Chief Constable and with the Head of Crime on a bi-monthly basis and she would like to extend it to Mr Forsyth and herself to go. The November meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting is on 5 December which they will be attending. Same process for TVP and Chiltern area around rape.

T/DCS Liz Mead raised her concern over Op. Qualis and DI being embedded. Not specifically rape – but in general around the Op Qualis performance report.

PCC is very concerned about the core outcomes in Bedfordshire regarding numbers and prosecutions.

There was significant criticism at this board from CPS predecessor. Had been claims that Hertfordshire’s performance was significantly better than ours. When the PCC had seen D/Supt. John Murphy,

who had been in Emerald – strongly disputed the numbers in terms of rape outcomes and said that the numbers were actually in reverse.

PCC asked T/DCS Liz Mead that if she is not able to give a report now – for us to reach the factual position for our key partners – those numbers coming through the courts and the sheer difficulty in getting a rape conviction. What we need to drill down into is what Bedfordshire police is doing individually and in alliance with CPS or separately to ensure that we are doing everything that we possibly can to support the case through the courts and get the best outcomes – and to provide reassurance to our partners as well.

**ACTION:** for next board – T/DCS Mead to cover the whole area. DCC said he will work with T/DCS Mead to get the full picture

#### **Signpost release**

FCR reporting how beneficial it has proved to them as well as how often they are using the Mental Health nurse to inform what is happening in terms of police response on the ground and what their next action should be.

Chief of Staff Clare Kelly explained how the Mental Health Hub has developed and the process involved.

**ACTION:** PCC asked the Head of the Mental Health to come and give a presentation to the board so everyone can see how their own service links into them.

#### **Action summary from OPCC:**

Following the Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) process the Force will be introducing the Community Neighbourhood Enforcement Team (NET)

PCC asked DCC when it would be operational and the reply was partially operational by April.

**ACTION:** PCC asked DCC to pick up at Strat Board where we are and then report back to this board.

#### **The 20,000 Uplift in Police Officers across the UK**

Second special grant has been awarded to the Force– which will be used to finance Boson and associated CSE work.

Policing Minister Kit Malthouse had written to PCC to confirm commitment but would not be announcing how much we were going to get in overall funding until late December at the very earliest.

Funding for the initial 6000 officers released as part of the national uplift. It has been decided the distribution called NREs (National Revenue Expenditure) which equates to getting an extra 18 officers on top of the extra 60 that the PCC had agreed to recruit this year. Every single officer counts in this force, but it is recognised there is an operational need for more. It is the PCCs intention, together with the Force Executive to bring the Policing Minister to Bedfordshire Police HQ as soon as possible. Not least because the number of

		<p>assumptions that were stated in the letters received from him around PEQF which the PCC would like to robustly correct.</p> <p><b>Community Hub Thank You Awards</b>  PCC explained why she would like to get very involved next year in these awards. The PCC said it is really important to her that we create a focus each year where we recognise key achievements for each of those community hubs and recognise those individuals in external organisations who go the extra mile to work with Bedfordshire Police. The Force has confirmed that they would like to make it a regular feature in the calendar.</p> <p><b>SARC</b>  PCC stated that since she started as PCC she has been keen to replace our SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre). Having the SARC in a strictly completely medical setting was completely inappropriate and she hopes that some of the Board will have the opportunity to visit the premises in Cambridgeshire which has been seen as the gold standard.  Very important to the PCC was that the SARC have different sections for children, teenagers and adults.  The new SARC has a long lease arrangements with Bedfordshire Police. It is being kitted out and decorated as PCC requires it. PCC has approached major retailers asking them if they will be prepared to provide furnishings.  NEXT sent the washable/ wipeable items for children's area within 48 hours of letter being sent, and have offered to provide us of between £6000-£8000 worth of sofas and chairs absolutely free of charge.  Matalan – have sent us £200 vouchers which the PCC said she will use to buy baby supplies and clothes – so it is sustainable.</p>
4.	<b>PPMG Update</b>	<p>PCC asked the group if anyone had any specific questions about the performance or any comments to make.  DCC said the performance figures are not at the standard he would expect and do not look good for the Force but it's what the Force does now to improve on that performance going forward.  PCC said Herts dug down into their figures and 50% of them didn't look right. It was a capacity problem at CPS.  T/DCS Mead stated there are concerns around how tick boxes are done around failure rate – eg. From summer, the Force failed on 111% of cases. There has to be something wrong with the figures.  Not been helped with concerns over summer in relation to CPS Summer Protocol being used whereby domestic abuse cases – anything that is not high, if someone needs to be remanded here and now we cannot go directly to CPS, we are having to bail people and pend a decision by local CPS. So it is extending the time for cases. With DA cases there is an attrition rate. Extending time and circumstances change.  We have not had a drop in conviction rate but that is because some of the cases have not gone to court. There may be a slight dip and a correlation.</p>

		<p><b>ACTION:</b> PCC has asked to have sight of BCH approach – as chair of this board she will write to Jaswant Narwal and express concern and to ask what her own view is.</p> <p><b>Proceeds of Crime update</b> PCC said she has reached an agreement with Judge Foster that he was prepared to direct monies that could be subject to judicial order and put them directly into Direction.</p> <p><b>VERU</b> Discussion around the start-up of VERU and engagement of YOS. This communication was in a far better place now than a month ago. Both YOS leads had a more positive aspect with VERU. PCC reminded the board the bid was in her name and she will have oversight on the VERU. PCC outlined to the board she had received communication from the Home Office that the VERU funding may continue if the unit is working well. The initial VERU Strategic Board chaired by Luton Chief Exec R Porter will meet on 29<sup>th</sup> November to agree direction and funding streams.</p> <p>PCC outlined her themes for funding for 20/21. Detailed her experience when came into office of no money to fund policing plan so she is only allocating part of the PCC funds initially to allow any new PCC money to finance their policing objectives post PCC Elections in May 2020. There are certain key funding posts that she knows we will need to fund year on year – Signpost and Direction.</p>
5.	<b>Op QUALIS</b>	<p>T/DCS Mead updated the board around Op QUALIS which started in 2017 to try and improve criminal justice outcome. In two years it was felt that QUALIS hasn't really made much impact across BCH. The difficulty in doing it jointly is that everyone has a different process.</p> <p>Op QUALIS was disbanded. Opportunity now for Bedfordshire to take this forward on our own to strive to improve on CJ performance. An improvement initiative going forward is to have two gatekeeper posts created – one in emerald, one is CIT to look at file quality every month as well as identifying training needs.</p> <p>T/DCS Mead stated Strategic objectives would stay the same. They are there to identify what the common performance themes are that are identified. Training needs to be identified and a standard set by the Force. T/DCS outlined SHERLOCK programme which is a cradle to grave training programme built to bring out all the learning and process points when investigating a crime. DCC backed this initiative.</p> <p>PCC said new recruits need to spend time in Emerald - so they understand why they need to do DA work.</p> <p>T/DCS Mead mentioned the new CIT now up and running and showing positive signs.</p>

		<p>T/DCS Mead Also outlined bi-monthly meetings with Herts Police counterparts around file quality and improvement processes are on-going, She added Herts looking at case build unit. Cambs 24 have officers on build. Herts doing similar thing. Beds Police do not have enough resources to develop this method.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> for PCC to be given performance figures at the next Strat Board</p> <p>T/DCS Mead updated the board concerning new scrutiny panel reviewing Rape cases.</p> <p>T/DCS Mead also suggested the idea of an award event for CID by way of recognition in same vein as Community Awards. DCC/PCC agreed to take this forward.</p>
6.	<b>Local and National updates</b>	<p><b>Probation:</b></p> <p>Ali Smith representing Alison Harding – has been asked to feed back that we have seen a slight reduction on same day reports – on significant staffing issues. Processing not always working effectively in organisation. Reported on significant staffing issues within Probation service at this time. Processes not working effectively. PCC happy to take it to ministerial level. HMP – massive impact on probation service.</p> <p><b>Youth Offending in Bedford</b></p> <p>Pat Jennings reported: Increased levels in central Bedfordshire. Open Day on 5/12 – inviting partners, police colleague’s health service who contribute to the Op. Market place approach. Crown court judge coming along. An opportunity for people to come and see what they do in terms of intervention with young people.</p> <p><b>Youth Offending in Luton:</b></p> <p>David Collins reported – MAGPAN essentially the overall intelligence footprint and work collaborated on is very beneficial. A small cohort of young people have to exhausted all social care support however he has been working with Contextual Safeguarding team to provide intensive support to young people on these limits. Phase 1 (of four phases) is being introduced and Dave Collins will keep the board updated.</p> <p>PCC said this is where early intervention is so useful.</p>
7.	<b>Reducing Re-Offending Group</b>	<p>Doug de St. Aubin – Chair of Reducing Re-Offending Group updated the Board.</p> <p><b>Reducing re-offending update:</b></p> <p><b>Direction.</b> Following last Reducing Re-Offending Board a full and detailed update was provided. The highlights included Direction staff having face to face meetings with clients, Surgeries are being held in Community areas as well as Communal areas of the prison to support families direct. ‘Pop-Up Shop’ style being taken to deliver advice and support.</p>

		<p>PCC expressed concern as to the risk associated to direct meetings and wanted some reassurance.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Doug De St Aubin to ensure risk assessment around these meetings is taking place.</p> <p>Discussion concerning homelessness and ex-offenders. Aware of various pockets of great practice but unsure how to access it.</p> <p>Doug suggested an event which involves housing providers across the county to establish how service users and organisations across can access the housing stock.</p> <p>This was agreed by PCC who stated she would host the event in the New Year and asked for delegate attendance. PCC asked DCC to ensure as a priority that the Community Hub teams were all made aware of this.</p> <p><b>Community Sentence Treatment</b> requirements - commissioned by the CCG – trying to increase the volume of mental health treatment requirements.</p> <p>There have been 5 test sites for mental health established but Bedfordshire was not one of those test beds. But local CCG was really keen to do something similar and put in money for that. Seen a massive increase in treatments available.</p> <p>Essentially – funding is being made available until March 2021. PCC said that was really important work to share with policing.</p> <p><b>PI scheme</b> – Doug requested an update concerning the PIC following PBB in Force. This could have serious impact on PI scheme if officers were reduced or withdrawn.</p> <p>DCC said he could take that back and speak with Doug outside of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Action</b> DCC to speak to Doug outside of meeting concerning PI and PBB</p> <p>Dave Collins added there is a lot of positive work being done around Boson and Serious Youth Violence. He invited Police representative to attend the information sharing meeting they hold every other Monday.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Doug De St Aubin to provide Liz Mead the dates of meetings and Liz Mead to send a representative to the meetings.</p>
8.	<b>Victims and Witness Group</b>	<p>At the Victims and Witnesses Group meeting it was reported : Victims Hub – referrals low</p>

		<p>Witness strategy agreed within the Board – attached to the minutes and agenda for the CJ Board</p> <p>Victims of DA – lack of staff in Signpost that can support this, looking to improve this situation.</p> <p>Antonina Belchava gave an update for PCC funding streams.</p> <p>In relation to AOB – the chair of the V&amp;W group will be ACC or Det. Supt. Duncan Young.</p> <p>OPCC will still provide the business support around it.</p>
9.	<b>Mental Health Strategic Partners Group</b>	Already covered in the meeting
10.	<b>Probation</b>	<p>Doug – In period of purdah – things have gone quiet.</p> <p>We know what direction of travel it is – but not much else in the detail. Made sure all our local partners are all involved in our stakeholder engagements. Will be framework of contracts – and all partners will know how to access these.</p>
11.	<b>Risk Register</b>	<p>PCC stated it was agreed at last meeting that domestic violence would go on.</p> <p>Op. Qualis – didn't know what the position was in relation to the force. That's going to be much more stable now. When we had gatekeepers looking at file quality it was very good. That level of scrutiny at a much earlier time works.</p> <p>PCC plea to partners, if we are going to do it this way – without further charge to you - we are going to need that information as we all agreed to do on time.</p> <p>Clare Kelly outlined the reason Risk Register was introduced to the Board and further work with Continuous Improvement to get DA onto the risk register.</p> <p><b>Action OPCC to link in with Continuous Improvement to get DA risk added to the risk assessment.</b></p> <p>Eurofins Forensic update provided by T/DCS Mead. This was subject to a BCH Gold group structure to identify and mitigate any impact this Forensic issue had across the 3 Forces. This has been effectively dealt with and no longer an issue for the Board.</p> <p><b>ACTION: T/DCS to send JPS closing report concerning Eurofins Forensics issues</b></p>
12.	<b>Correspondence</b>	Nothing to note.



13	A.O.B.	As part of the new SARC, there is 'LiveLink' capability which would be used by victims for Court. The Force, via FTTCG budget, will fund the initial instalment and equipment cost however the revenue costs of approx £2000 was requested to come from BCJB members. PMc was requesting board members to seek contributions from organisations involved. Action to be followed up concerning future contributions.
14.	Date of next meeting	Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup> at 2pm Conference Room 1, Police Headquarters

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