



Bedfordshire Board Meeting
Lecture Theatre, Kempston Police Headquarters
Thursday 4th September

Attendees:

Kathryn Holloway, Police and Crime Commissioner (Chair)
 Marianne Vits, Strategic Business Co-Ordinator, BCH CJB
 Dominic Baker, Deputy Strategic Business Co-Ordinator, BCH CJB
 Bethan West, OPCC, Director of Victim Services and Commissioning
 Adrian Foster, Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS Thames & Chiltern
 Shirley Meehan, Area Manager Citizens Advice, Witness Service
 David Collins, Luton YOS Service Manager
 Marcel Coiffait, Chief Executive, CSP Representative
 Alison Harding, Head of NPS, Bedfordshire
 Nathan Briant, Head of Custody and Criminal Justice, BCH
 Sharn Basra, Temporary Head of Crime & Public Protection
 David Williams, Contract Manager, LAA
 Jeannine North, HMCTS
 Pat Jennings, YOS
 Amanda Geraghty, Acting Deputy Director, BeNCH CRC
 Beverley Brooks, PA to BCH CJB

Guest

Kevin Vanterpool, Victims Hub
 Sheila Forder, VARAC

Apologies:

Julie Maddocks, OPCC
 Suzanne Gadd, Justice Clerk, HMCTS
 Marc Hodges, Project Manager, OPCC
 Jim Binyon, Performance Office, BCH CJB
 Howard Chapman, Legal Aid Contract Manager
 Ruth Bowskill, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor

PART 2 ~ CLOSED

CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 AND IN AGREEMENT WITH THE DECISION OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD DECISION OF 3RD DECEMBER 2003

NO	TITLE	MINUTES	ACTIONS
1.	Welcomes and Apologies	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received were conveyed.	
2.	Minutes from Thursday 6 th July	There were some errors found in the minutes – these will be corrected.	

		<p>PCC Holloway received contact from BMA seeking the views of PCCs on charging police for their requests for information. She found this “quite scandalous” due to the fact that the police would be approaching them to improve community safety and investigations. She asked the Board for their opinions.</p> <p>Nathan Briant explained that the police already pay an agreed fee for statements and there has been some occasions over the past years that some doctors have requested more than the agreed fee (due to their independence). The nationally agreed fee has been stuck with over the years even with some doctors having to be summoned. Nathan explained that it is not a new question as the police have traditionally paid for the production of statements for medical evidence in relation to victims of assault and further crimes. He was unsure what the agreed fee was but believed it to be approximately £40 per statement.</p> <p>This is not the same fee as an expert witness.</p> <p>Sharn Basra has not been made aware of any additional charges coming through from the BMA.</p> <p>Bethan West explained that there is a charge to victims, across most of the country, that if they need to get Legal Aid they will need to get a letter from the doctor. This costs approximately £75 for one letter. In Manchester there is now a bi-law that no doctor is allowed to charge this fee if the letter is for court as if the victim is unable to afford this they will be unable to get the help.</p> <p>Adrian Foster added that CPS are the agency who pays for the attendance of expert witnesses.</p> <p>Kathryn informed the group that the charge that BMA are looking into is for data.</p> <p>Marcel Coiffait explained to the group that the data is publicly owned which therefor means they would be unable to charge for the retrieval of it.</p>	
--	--	---	--

3.	Matters Arising	<p>Action MV to feedback findings from the PTPHs</p> <p>Action MV & AF to meet and discuss guilty plea rates</p> <p>Action BW & MC to link and discuss funding for housing</p>	<p>Marianne Vits</p> <p>Marianne Vits & Adrian Foster</p> <p>Bethan West and Marcel Coiffait</p>
4.	VARAC	<p>A presentation was given by Sheila Forder on VARAC</p> <p>Action Sheila to report back to the Board with figures once VARAC has grown further.</p> <p>Safetynet will be a site for all partners to have access to for training and other information. Resource flow – at the current point there has been no review of further resources. MC questioned what would happen once the pilot was created. Sheila explained that this would be a matter reviewed towards the end of the pilot. BW suggested that this matter be taken to ICE where multiple agencies are brought together to discuss funding.</p> <p>Action Regular updates</p>	<p>Sheila Forder</p> <p>Sheila Forder</p>
5.	Boost the Front Line	<p>There is now information available online for individuals to be able to self-refer. The word “victim” has been avoided due to the feelings that people have when they are put under this word. Information is given so those reading the website will understand how to put the call in, what will happen next and what will happen throughout the service</p>	
6.	Hub Update	<p>A presentation was given to the members on the new Victims Hub.</p> <p>If a person is a victim of a crime outside of their home county the constabularies, which have taken victim support in house, email victims’ support units in the individuals own county directly. If the services have not been taken in house the same process will happen but would be slower.</p> <p>Action</p>	

		<p>Presentation to be sent to Adrian Foster</p> <p>Action BW to take the presentation to partners to speak through the service that is available. If there are any partners who would like the presentation/would like an update given to their staff to contact BW</p> <p>Event taking place on Monday 17th September to give any information on the unit as well as what services are available.</p>	<p>Beverley Brooks</p> <p>Bethan West</p>
7.	Performance Data DA Special Focus	<p>Performance was discussed by the members with a heavy focus on DA.</p> <p>Sustained surge in demand. The recorded crime took a spike on 28th May, after the Manchester attacks – this has been a 16% increase from 2016</p> <p>Action JB to contact HMCTS to find the warrants being issued in Bedfordshire</p> <p>Action BW to find why warrants no longer are recorded in Beds</p> <p>Action BW & MV to investigate the reasons behind police nonattendance at court</p>	<p>Jim Binyon</p> <p>Bethan West</p> <p>Bethan West & Marianne Vits</p>
8.	Victims & Witnesses Group	<p>The minutes from the previous Victims & Witnesses Group were circulated.</p> <p>Bedfordshire are continuing to look for accommodation for the new SARC unit.</p> <p>Mary Collins survey has been circulated but there has only been one response so far from the police.</p> <p><i>Agenda – update on serious crime</i></p>	
9.	Joint Beds & Herts Efficiency Group	<p>The minutes from the previous Joint Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Efficiency Group were circulated.</p> <p>Section 28 is being led by St Albans judge with some early success around the region. The go live is currently looking like early 2018</p>	

		<p>Action When Section 28 is live JN to arrange a date for KH to visit the site along with the Judges</p>	Jeannine North
10.	Reducing Re-Offending Group	The minutes from the previous Reducing Re-Offending Group were circulated.	
11.	Funding Opportunities	BW has been working closely with AgeUK to discuss the older generation as well as speaking with (find name) who supports ex-forces who have developed drug and alcohol	
12.	Virtual Court and Live Link	<p>Job offers have now been made for Kempston and Luton posts – now just waiting for the vetting.</p> <p>Action DB to create a briefing for KH regarding all of the firsts which have been done in Bedfordshire</p>	Dom Baker
13.	Operational Update	<p>All reviews of serious crimes have been done and the job will be released. Applications have been put into home office with safer London training.</p> <p><u>David Collins – YOS</u> A survey has been circulated to young people to find their perceptions on how safe they feel and what services should be made available.</p> <p><u>Metal health street triage</u> This review is still happening. All bar 1 CCG has begun this. NHS are now looking to fund this triage.</p>	
14.	Correspondence	A document on The Age of Responsibility was circulated for members.	
15.	A.O.B	<p>Action KPMG report to be circulated to the group</p>	Marianne Vits
16.	Date of Next Meeting	Monday 6 th November, 14.00-16.00, Conference Room 1, Kempston HQ	