

BCJB Board Meeting  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
**Teams Meeting**

<b>Confirmed with</b>
Clare Kelly, Chief Executive OPCC, Chair (CK)
Layla Allen, Area Manager for Thames Valley for Bedfordshire and Herefordshire (LA)
Catherine Akehurst, Chief Superintendent of BCH Criminal Justice (CA)
Christopher Barclay, Criminal Justice Research and Performance Analyst for the Hertfordshire OPCC (CB)
Judge Mark Bishop, Resident Judge at Luton Crown Court
Dave Collins, Head of Youth Offending and Target Youth Service in Luton
Alison Harding, Head of Local Delivery Unit for the National Probation Service in Bedfordshire (AH)
Wayne Humberstone, Delivery Manager OPCC Bedfordshire (WH)
Eliot Johashen, Criminal Justice Victims Project Manager OPCC Bedfordshire (EJ)
Ian Miller, HMCTS Manager (IM)
Tom Morton, Bench CRC (TM)
Clare Malarkey, Head of Crime for Southeast Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (CM)
Pat Jennings, Head of Offending Service Bedford (PJ)
Simon Powell, Head of Victim Care OPCC Bedfordshire (SP)
Alisha Powell, Business Support Assistant OPCC Bedfordshire (AP) - minutes
Trevor Rodenhurst, Deputy Chief Constable (TR)

<b><u>ITEM 1 – Introduction and Apologies</u></b>
Introduction were exchanged and minutes were agreed.  Apologies from, Fiona Beazer, Rachel Mort, PJ Butler, Dee Perkins, Carole Ward, Clare Smith, Anna Bruce, Marcel Coiffait, Pete Mangan, Sharn Basra, Joy Piper and Jaswant Narwal
<b><u>ITEM 2 – Actions from Previous Meetings</u></b>
STANDING ITEM:  Please see the Criminal Justice action log from November 2020 to March 2021.  The action log was updated accordingly.
<b><u>ITEM 3 – Executive Performance Summary</u></b>
Executive Performance report – needs updating by all partners respective areas – Please add comments with specifics you wish to raise.  CB presented the report to the board.  <b>Recorded Crime</b> Crime is down 2020 – down by 9% on 2019 with Jan and Feb being the lowest figures we've had since before 2019  <b>Arrests</b> Lowest figures before 2019



Crime levels in the summer may be high due to the UA for European Football Championship is between June/July and England's first match is the same day as when all restrictions are lifted, which could be challenging for the Police. People are less likely to go aboard this year, and we will also see the impact of the first wave of officer uplifts over the summer. We may see an increase in crime.

### **Magistrates Court**

Average charge at first listing. The most recent quarter is up 75% on the same quarter last year. We are still ahead nationally. The national average across forces, Beds is highest.

IM stated – Amanda Roberts may have details.

**Action: Ian to liaise with Amanda Roberts to see whether her work has discovered the key points as to why Beds are higher in the average charge at first listing.**

CB continues with the update.

Bedford are higher again on the no guilty or no plea data.

### **Luton Magistrates Court**

The trials are being listed for September 2021

We can see from the data we've had an increase because of the pandemic and the impact on the Courts, which has caused trials to be vacated.

IM stated – There were problems with listing and cases were moved. This may have been the time when the figures were high, which has been sorted.

### **Crown Court data**

Within the last 3 months, file quality proxy error rate has been very good. The CPS will take a sample of cases and assess the file for any errors and will have a quote on quote proxy error rate.

CA stated - CPS nationally have stopped monitoring FQ nationally as of February. We are working locally with CPS to still review the files and take lessons learned. FQ is post-charge before trial. CA has overlooked the national figures and noted the national average for Beds is 27. CA has seen good work around the Crown Courts.

Chris updates the board on average hearings/guilty pleas.

MB stated – We need to record telephone hearings as most cases are seen by telephone (which counts as a hearing), especially during Covid.

**Action: Chris to measure telephone hearing data and feed into the report going forth.**

### **Failed Cases through V & W reasons**

38.5% in the most recent Q and 40% nationally. This relates to low number, which is 5/30.

### **Special Focus Area**

very little update.

CB offered to create a glossary explaining how the metrics are defined. CK needs the partners to provide the data around special focus areas to talk on their own areas. Having the percentage next to the ranking helps, and CK has asked for CB to keep that on the report.

AH stated - The figures about reports do not make sense. Alison will ask our Performance Team to provide some up to date information; as we move into recovery, we are increasing the number of reports we provide on the day.

**Action: Alison to send Eliot and Chris a distribution list.**

CK opened up a conversation across the board to comment on their area.



TR updated the board on file quality – We have recruited the file quality team manager. He has completed the process mapping for the new team and has graded the role profiles and placed the advert. The advert is live with a two-week turnaround. The OOCd officer is in place and the file quality manager is conducting a complete review of OOCd and how we manage that internally with a view to developing and strengthening the process both in terms of data reporting and broader use of CC and CR. We have monthly T&F file quality group with a detailed performance framework that tracks performance to individual officer level. This has been supported across the organisation. OOCd - out of Court disposal. We are running this week more training events for DG6. The impacts we are seeing are in relation to enhanced officer time on file build.

#### **ITEM 4 - PPMG**

##### Key messages

At the last PPMG, Chris Barclay produced 12 moth performance reports for Herts and Beds.

One key concern in relation to the Mags cases was around a high number of cases seeing six or more hearings, which led to an action to look into them. There are reasons behind this which were, some specialist firms seeking adjournments for drink drive cases, and adjournments for consideration to out of Court disposals. It was discussed that the force could make it clear on the paperwork where out of Court disposals have previously been considered in hopes that it would prevent adjournments in the Mags Court.

CA stated that she had looked at out of Court disposals at the start of the pandemic. A lot of cases were reviewed to see they could use out of court disposals to reduce pressure on the Courts. CA is confident the force is using them effectively.

##### **Action: Catherine to take the PPMG update and feed back to the teams.**

EJ continued to update the team on the key areas relating to PPMG. In regards to the performance metrics from 2020 against 2019, recorded crime was down 9% but the exception to that was DA which had a 4% increase along with stalking and harassment, which is up 16%.

PJ asked Is that out of court decisions based on adults, because as a YOS we have requested this consideration for our children.

CA confirmed if it's a child that were looking at custody disposals, that should go through the children young person's team and discussions with YOS to determine the appropriateness of that. The adult out of custody is slightly different.

AH stated that the DA figure and stalking harassment figures are going up. We need to find ways to feed that into the wider partnership. A lot of work is done with partners relating to domestic abuse.

##### **Action: Trevor to feed back to Dee as Chair of the Victims and Witness Board to ensure we have enough resources in place to deal with those increases**

#### **ITEM 5 - A Local and National partnership updates and National communications**

##### Local and National Papers

##### Integrated Offender Management (IOM) strategy refresh



20201209\_IOM\_Strategy\_LCJB.pdf

##### Revised VCOP – April 2021



victims-code-april-2021.pdf

AH updated the board on IOM strategy.

They have a subgroup looking at what the new strategy means in terms of the IOM cohort. There are some offenders managed in an IOM that will come in and out. There are 178 in Bedfordshire that would come into IOM, which cannot be managed. AH reassures the board that they're not far off where they want to be, and plan to do more work around the criteria of and what that looks like in Bedfordshire.

#### **ITEM 6 – Victim and Witness Group**



Meeting was held in February.

Dee was not on the call, and therefore, an update was not provided from that area.

SP updated the board. In the Victims and Witness Group meeting the core elements spoken about were court data for next year and the V & W engaging, which has been covered throughout the CJ meeting agenda. There were tasks set in the group around how we will move forward, and in the next criminal justice meeting there would be a further update from Victim and Witness Group.

#### **ITEM 7 - Reducing Re-Offending Group**

Update on Re- Offending Board 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Alison updated the board. We had a plan around accommodation, but because of Covid, the pandemic and money through probation services to ensure we don't have offenders sleeping on the streets during the pandemic, we are having to rewrite the plan. They now have a new project called Project Vanguard, where by there will be money for the 12 weeks for an offender released from prison. All these initiatives will write the Reducing Reoffending action plan going forward.

AH and CRC colleagues with transition the reunification of probation serviced in June. This will be a look of work for them.

AH has a reunification slide pack which she can share with the board and can send out with minutes.

AH would like to have a conversation with CK around the relationship and U-Turn future, and how we can make that work in the new model.

**Action: CK to set up a meeting with AH and have a conversation around relationship and U-Turn**

#### **ITEM 8 - HM Court Recovery Plan**

Update

IM does not have an updated regional plan, but was able to provide the board with Bedfordshire's plan.

Four jury trials up and running, and IM is trying to increase that to five trials. The issue at the moment is safety of the users within the Court building, and are in discussions with the Judge on building a plan to get around this. We are going to stay at four for the time being.

We do not have an update on social distancing. We will update everyone by June.

We are looking at possible external venues to use.

MB stated that they have access to Nightingale Court which has worked well for them.

**Action: Ian to send Clare any changes up and coming before the next Criminal Justice meeting to present to the board.**

#### **ITEM 9 - AOB**

All

CK spoke on the VNA, which the OPCC and partners have been involved in. Clare thanked everyone. We have conducted a meeting with partners on all the recommendations and those have been agreed. We have consulted on all the wording and these go out on 25/3/21. It will be shared to everyone on the board.

CK spoke on PCC elections. The elections to go ahead on 6 May 2021. We have the rolling chair lead year on year which sits with the PCC. However, the role of a PCC in Criminal Justice is not statutory.

As from 12 April, Catherine Akehurst will be moving from a temporary ACC post. Chief Superintendent Matt Thompson will be moving into Catherine's portfolio on the same date.

**Action: to change administration meeting to Matt Thompson to ensure he has the diary invite and agenda going forward.**

**Next Meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> June - papers together by 10<sup>th</sup> June

