



**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR BEDFORDSHIRE**

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW MEETING

27th March 2023

Attendees: Wayne Humberstone (WH), Francoise Julian (FJ), Bethany Coles (BC), Cara Gavin (CG), Anesu Banda (AB), Claire Hurst (CH), Simon Powell (SP), Jenna Skinner (JS), Gemma McCormack (GM), Alysha Patel (AP), Phil McCarthy (PM)

Business Review Meeting	Actions
<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Apologies: Karen Cotton (KC), Pauline Stewart (PS), Anna Villette (AV), Phil Eaton (PE), Tara Malciw (TM), Mary Robinson (MR), Katie Beaumont (KB), Ian Dalgarno (ID)</p>	
<p>Actions Update</p> <p>All actions were reviewed and have been updated on the log.</p>	
<p>Director of OPCC Operations</p> <p>WH updated that we have submitted our updates from Project Managers for Police and Crime Panel. FJ and WH are progressing with the Serious Violence Duty.</p> <p>WH updated that we received the Anti-Social Behaviour Toolkit from the College of Policing today and this will be useful for the office.</p> <p>CG has been working on the absenteeism project which is coming to a close and will update more in her section of the meeting.</p>	
<p>Head of Governance and Transparency</p> <p>Police and Crime Panel</p> <p>The panel is due to take place on the 30th March 2023, the focus of this meeting will be CEO Confirmation Hearing.</p> <p>Joint Audit Committee (JAC)</p> <p>JAC took place on Friday last week, this was a positive meeting.</p>	



RSM audits are ongoing within the OPCC.

FOI/DP requests

FOIs continue to come in and be managed by BC. When the OPCC receives a FOI and requests information from your area – if you do not understand please seek clarification from KB and BC.

Independent Custody Visitors (ICV)

The ICV Panel meeting was held online via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 9th March 2023. Mandatory training was completed with the ICVs using Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) bitesize material on Mental Health in Custody. Meetings have been booked in with ICVs for the new forms that are to be used by ICVs in Custody – one meeting has been held last week which was successful.

There are a further 2 meetings go through the forms this week with remaining ICVs and we are hoping to go live with the new forms at the start of April. The new forms will help with the scheme collecting mandatory data/information which is required to be reported back to ICVA.

There are 5 new ICVs who will be attending a new starter/induction session in a couple of weeks' time, and 1 new ICV who we are waiting to receive vetting clearance from. Numbers of ICVs are fluctuating due to high volumes of new starters however some ICVs unfortunately resigning from the scheme due to changes in circumstances etc. In total, including ICVs who were successful at interview and undergoing vetting, we will have 33 ICVs in total in the scheme.

BC and a couple of ICVs are supporting the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) with some filming for Volunteers Week. The ICVA National Conference will be taking place in May and several ICVs have come forward to book a space. BC will be attending with the ICVs.

Stop and Search/ Use of Force

In 2023 so far we have had the following:

- 2 stop & search sub panel meetings (next meeting 6th April)
- 1 stop & search main meeting (next meeting 13th April)
- 1 use of force sub panel meeting
- 1 use of force main meeting



AM updated that she is having a meeting with KB on 3rd April to discuss panel and plan going forward, arranging training for new members and refresher for older members.

Stop and Search Main meeting due to take place on Thursday. AM is working on a newsletter/bulletin. Both bulletins to be presented to KB this week and hopefully launched afterwards.

Complaints

There are four reviews which are currently outstanding.

Decisions

All known decisions are available on the website and up to date.

Website Compliance – Specified Information Order

Can everyone let KB know when you have amended your pages on the website – or if you would like a page, to let KB know as soon as possible.

Violence & Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU) Manager

Community & Engagement:

PMc updated that the community lead has been busy visiting our commissioned services. The main aspect was the Hope Hack where we hosted the national committee gleaning the views and voices of young people across the county. This event comes from the Damilola Taylor trust that seek to engage young people across the country and get unedited voices and views on various themes and topics.

A detailed day was planned and put in place for 18th March at University of Bedfordshire. Attendance suffered by the train strikes and also adverse weather – however the young people who did attend and those young people who acted as facilitators gave us a great day of insight and provided clear views on a range of topics.

The PCC did attend and found the event vibrant and he went away with a very clear understanding on how it went. VERU attended DALLOW CARES, a Luton Council Ward initiative and worked alongside the police and key stakeholder partners working with community leaders and residents. A very busy event and able to really deliver key messages to young people and parents around Violence and exploitation.

Communications:



PMc updated that the VERU in View and social media continue to have 'hits' and the messages have been well received.

Knife Crime campaign continues to be finalised has been authorised this month. The comms team will deliver a set of interviews, key messages and other social media product and content as well as paid advertising conveying the message of not carrying a knife. The campaign will run for most of the year and we will be able to publish the timeline to OPCC and Force to ensure any significant supportive operations or programmes can be 'attached'.

Our new VERU website is being built and the supplier has been identified and will be working to make the site live within the next month.

Data Analysis and Research:

Strategic Needs Assessment has been completed along with the refreshed Strategic Response and will be back with the Home Office in line with the deadline of 31st March. Alongside these reports, we are compiling an end of year report as well as our Action Plan.

Education and Research Lead:

Developing the VERU Action Plan in direct response to the Strategic Needs Assessment is nearing completion.

Absenteeism project – end of pilot report is being compiled with OPCC.

YIS (Youth Intervention Specialists) Work:

As previously reported, the YIS team are actively trying to recruit into the team. The team vacancies have impacted on our ability to maintain higher levels of referrals.

Referral meetings and events attended:

- Multi-agency child exploitation meeting MACE
- Contextual Safeguarding (CBC South)
- MAGPan
- Serious Youth Violence Panel
- CSE and Missing SPOC meeting
- Boson Silver



- Central Bedfordshire College Health and Wellbeing event
- Knife Crime/ Gang Presentation – Central Bedfordshire College
- Dallow Road – Op Weaver

Further to this, the YIS team hold caseloads for high-risk children and are now monitoring their work on a new Case Management system called OASIS. Continued training on this system will allow the YIS team to have a fully auditable record of their interventions.

Events – managed by Community & Engagement Lead

Kick-Off@3 – developing the next round for Bedfordshire. Youth led football tournament to choose one team to represent Beds at a final tournament in July 2023. LTFC are involved in this project.

Risks:

VERU management looking to off-set the known reduction of Year 2 funding from the Home Office grant fund.

No other risks have been identified in this period.

Commissioning

VERU Delivery Plan 23/24 is being finalised for submission with support from Hope Office SPOC.

Although we are facing a tapered fund for year two, the VERU Community interventions the ‘High harm’ intervention percentage (those that under Youth Endowment Fund) – the amount of money funding interventions under this category has increased from 20% to 30% but the proposed delivery plan exceeds this limit.

We will be working with OPCC Commissioning team to manage the 23/24 community intervention programmes.

Head of Victim Services and Commissioning

Performance – Qualitative and quantitative

SP updated that there was 428 referrals into Bedfordshire Victim Care Services (BVCS) from the Force. 70 referrals pulled through by BVCS. There were 28 agency referrals and 16 self-referrals.

Projects



The BVCS Change Program is in progress, this project is around the office move as well as policies and procedure review and office culture.

New elements to log (issues or success)

The team is now at full capacity. In the past two months we have had 2 Business Support Administrators arrive and 2 Victim Care Coordinators.

The challenge is now for the Supervisors and the team to support our new arrivals and implement the training packages, the average time to fully train a Victim Care Coordinator is 3 months.

Communication plans to share

The team is due to move to Cauldwell Street on 3rd April 2023. SP stated that he has asked the Force Control Room (FCR) if they can accommodate the team for a day to enable them to continue supporting victims and the FCR has the function to record calls.

Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust:

Performance – Qualitative and quantitative

Total number of referrals to the team for February is 60.

Communication plans to share

The Charity will close on the 31 March 2023. The Bobby Scheme Team will be retained and built into Bedfordshire Victim Care Services.

Commissioning and Income Generation Lead

JS and CH updated that commissioned services and projects have been confirmed for 2023/2024. The commissioning log for the website is now being finalised. The 23/24 Commissioning plan has been devised; the team have been updated around key areas of responsibility.

Sums.org has been introduced to enable data and reports to become easier accessible for the commissioning team. Training on the system is ongoing. The OPCC website has been reviewed and updated.

Q4 data monitoring meeting are scheduled for the coming weeks. The end of year Financial Audit has been completed and the Commissioning, Governance and Transparency meeting held.



2023/2024 evaluation panels have now been completed and clarification meetings took place for those lower scoring bids. The 2023/2024 commissioned services were agreed, and email notification sent to successful applicants.

Grant agreements issued for the 2023/2024 commissioned services. Mobilisation and continuation of service meeting commenced and ongoing. On site appointments have also been scheduled for the coming months.

Multi Crime, therapeutics support provision agreed with organisation. Sexual Exploitation funding opportunity meeting held. CH and TM attended a funding opportunity partnership event held on the 23rd of March.

Sexual Violence Network meeting established and Commissioned Provider Network meeting established.

Income generation:

- Home Office DA Perpetrator Outcome pending
- To explore Youth Endowment Fund opportunity.

Project Manager – Policing and Contact and Safer Streets

PE sent his apologies for the meeting however WH updated the team with PE updates.

Criminal Justice Project Manager

Bedfordshire Criminal Justice Board

The Board met on Tuesday 21 March 2023. There was good attendance and contribution from the workstream leads and members. The main areas of discussion which generated actions related to HMICFRS Mental Health Assessment recommendations and women in the CJS presented by the Force.

OPCC Priority 6 – Transparency

The Board agreed to hold an annual public meeting; proposed dates to be circulated for agreement.

BCJB Meeting Schedule

- 24/05/2023 Planning meeting – Guest Speaker (APCC) confirmed.
- 20/06/2023 Q1
- 19/09/2023 Q2



- 19/12/2023 Q3
- 19/03/2024 Q4

Performance and Programme Management Group (PPMG Chaired by CPS) – Beds/Herts

The PPMG met on 16 March 2023, the main areas of discussion were:

Scorecard: The Board has a performance analyst commencing 1 April 2023.

Victim Attrition: Herts produced a paper looking at reasons for victim attrition, Bedfordshire will respond and report back to the 23/24 Q1 meeting.

Beds Force representation: Appropriate Force representation has been identified to ensure that the work generated by the PPMG, does not overlap with other performance groups such as the JOIM. Contributions from the attending Force lead was welcomed.

Reducing Reoffending Board (RRB Chaired by Probation)

The RRB met on 14 March 2023, the main areas of discussion were:

Transition Subgroup: The format for progressing the CJS service mapping was agreed and will be progressed by the CJ&V Project Manager. Partners to feedback comments ahead of the next meeting.

Young Adult Support Worker (YASW): The Job Description and Guidance for the role will be reviewed by the RRB members. Feedback to be returned to Probation.

Service provisions for Prison Leavers: A proposal was individuals leaving the prison service led by Probation. A proposal for future provisions will be explored once the mapping exercise is completed.

Victims Needs Assessment 2021 (VNA)

Of the 28 recommendations, 5 are at various stages of completion, the remainder have been completed and will be subject to ongoing review.

Serious Violence Duty (The Duty)

A report with recommendations will be fed back to the Home Office and SVD partners for implementation.

The Pan Beds Drug Alcohol Violence and Exploitation Partnership Board partnership was approached by the OPCC, to consider taking on responsibility for the Duty. The group have agreed in principle and the ToR amended for comments and agreement at the next meeting.



The group will have responsibility for ensuring implementation and oversight of;

- Home Office funding allocation and spend
- A Countywide SVD Needs Assessment and Response Strategy
- Implementation of the Beds SVD Strategy

The VERU in consultation with colleagues across Beds including the three CSPs, recently completed a violence and exploitation strategic needs assessment and response document for submission to the Home Office end March.

Next steps are that the OPCC have invited CSPs and Integrated Health partners to meet to discuss next steps, using the VERU strategic needs assessment and responding strategy as a starting point.

Police and Race Action Plan (PRAP)

No further updates, work on how to support the Force in achieving the vision and outcomes of the PRAP through the Board and its respective workstreams is ongoing.

Restorative Justice Coordinator

HMPPS

There is going to be a seminar held on the 31st March around Re:hub and how the new Framework will affect the PCC commissioned RJ services.

RJ Prison Project

The proposal is still being finalised and we're hoping to set up a meeting with the prison to see the extent of their backing and to meet with the new Governor to discuss the project.

Referrals

We currently have 5 active cases.

Training and Awareness

This month I have delivered awareness sessions to the new starters at BVCS. Next week I will be delivering training to the Prison Offender Managers at HMP Bedford in the hope that they will start offering RJ to the offenders. I will also be meeting the FLO Coordinator this week to introduce RJ and do an input to raise awareness as they communicate and support victims through the criminal justice process.

RJ leaflets should be delivered to Beds HQ this week, and these will be distributed to partners across Bedfordshire in the coming weeks.

Early Intervention Project Manager

School Absenteeism Pilot

CG updated that the pilot is due to come to an end on 31st March 2023. Since the absenteeism pilot commenced in June 2022, a total of 116 young people has received specialist intervention from the VERU's YIS staff as a result of being referred into the PCC's pilot Engagement with pupils is maintained during school holidays. This is essential.

So far, the pilot has resulted in several positive outcomes for the young people and families that are being supported. All 116 people who have been referred to the pilot are engaging with the VERU and feedback from the families has been positive. Parents and carers of the referred pupils have told the team that they are thankful for the support in addressing their child's absence from education as they often feel powerless in tackling the issue alone.

CG reported that the final report/data from VERU will be received following 31st March 2023.

Safer Streets 4 – Educational Initiative

- Educational Toolkit Rollout to schools – Thursday 12th Jan 2023
- Home school teams included.
- Team will now be looking at the best way to follow up with schools – reminder of resources / feedback etc.
- Safer Streets & LAWC to look at second wave of Toolkit launch – how best to utilise this within clubs.
- SS4 commissioned Our Streets Now to deliver a total of 12 online staff training workshops. These took place over a 2 week period in February with AM / PM and EVENING slots available.

Total of 26 attendees to the workshops, from schools and partner organisations. Schools include BILTT, Sharnbrook Academy, Bedford Girls School, Daubeney Academy, Bedford Academy, The Seeds of Change, Cauldwell School, Kings Oak Primary and The Avenue Centre.

From feedback given before and after the workshops – participants reported between 80% - 100% increase in the following areas,

- knowledge of young people's experiences of PSH and the impact it has on them.
- Confidence in responding to disclosures of PSH
- Confidence in answering questions about PSH
- Knowledge of taking an intersectional approach
- Clarity on how to apply a clear action plan for tackling PSH.



“Meeting such driven people who have already and will continue to make a difference in the lives of young people.

“Facilitators were passionate and knowledgeable. Felt like we were learning from experts, rather than people just paid to talk to us.” – feedback from a participant.

Youth Conference 2023

- Central Beds – 28th Feb – Rufus Centre
- Luton – 1st March – Venue 360
- Bedford Borough – Kings House
- 280 attendees plus 87 facilitators/staff/speakers so roughly 367 total outreach. Numbers slightly dipped due to Luton school strikes.
- Currently processing feedback from students / teachers.

Restorative Justice (RJ) in schools

Project team has been created within the office. Regular meetings set up. Currently looking to pilot in 2 schools (one in Luton, one in Bedford). Initial meetings with schools and organisation RJ in schools, who may act as our provider.

Events/Executive Assistant Updates

GM updated that a date of 13 June has been held in the diary for the Faith Conference and that it will be held in Dunstable. Plans are also progressing for the Business Conference, as well as the Summer Programme.

AOB

No AOB discussed.