

Sussex Criminal Justice Board Meeting Minutes

09:30 – 10:00hrs, Wednesday 5th September 2018
Sackville House, Lewes, BN7 2FZ

1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations – Jaswant Narwal

Jaswant Narwal	Chief Crown Prosecutor – CPS (Vice Chairman)	JN
Mark Streater	Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	MSt
Dave Manning	HM Courts & Tribunals Service	DMa
Jo Player	Brighton & Hove City Council	JP
Jason Taylor	Sussex Police	JT
Simon Nelson	Sussex Police	SN
Cynthia Allen	KSS CRC	CA
Sam Newbould	KSS CRC	SNe
Carwyn Hughes	Sussex Police	CH
Maralyn Smith	Victim Support	MS
Emily King	West Sussex County Council	EK
Tania Riedel	Sussex YOT's	TR
Mark Burden	HM Prison and Probation Service	MB
Rob McCauley	Legal Aid Agency	RM
Craig Wilson	HMP Bronzefield	CW
Sam Sanderson	Women in CJS – Project Manager	SS
Bruce Tippen	SSCJP Business Manager	BT
Lindsey Parris	SSCJP	LP

Observing:

David Munro	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner	DM
Damian Markland	Office of the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner	DMar

Apologies received from:

<i>Katy Bourne (Chairman)</i>	<i>Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner</i>	<i>KB</i>
<i>Debbie Cropanese</i>	<i>HM Courts & Tribunals Service</i>	<i>DC</i>
<i>Suki Binning</i>	<i>KSS CRC</i>	<i>SB</i>
<i>Nick Pascoe</i>	<i>HM Prison and Probation Service</i>	<i>NP</i>
<i>Andrea Saunders</i>	<i>HM Prison and Probation Service</i>	<i>AS</i>
<i>Wendy Tattersall</i>	<i>Public Health England</i>	<i>WT</i>
<i>Anne Elgeti</i>	<i>NHS England</i>	<i>AE</i>
<i>Rebecca Hills</i>	<i>Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust</i>	<i>RH</i>
<i>Samantha Allen</i>	<i>Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust</i>	<i>SA</i>
<i>Susanne Jarman</i>	<i>Citizens Advice – Witness Service</i>	<i>SJ</i>
<i>Justine Armstrong-Smith</i>	<i>East Sussex County Council</i>	<i>JAS</i>
<i>Rodney Warren</i>	<i>Warrens Solicitors</i>	<i>RW</i>
<i>Ian Whiteside</i>	<i>HMP Bronzefield</i>	<i>IW</i>
<i>Vicky Robinson</i>	<i>HMP Bronzefield</i>	<i>VR</i>
<i>Jane Macdougall</i>	<i>WMC Legal LLP</i>	<i>JM</i>
<i>Stephen Fradley</i>	<i>HMP Ford</i>	<i>SF</i>

JN welcomed members to the SCJB meeting and reported Chairman Katy Bourne was unable to attend the meeting due to other pressing commitments.

JN reported she would be leaving CPS South East at the end of September but she would be remaining within CPS and taking up the position of Chief Crown Prosecutor for the Thames and Chiltern area.

JN added it had been a real pleasure to work with members as a Chief Crown Prosecutor and Vice Chairman of the SSCJP. She thanked members for their support with all the inter-agency working to deliver justice in the most collaborative and effective way possible for victims and witnesses.

Declarations of Interest:

Declaration of interest received from Maralyn Smith – Victim Support.

2. Minutes and Rolling Action Log from previous meeting 6th June 2018

EK requested an amendment within Item 3 – ***Minutes have been amended to reflect the change.***

The remainder of the minutes from the previous SCJB meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

The Action Log (separate document) was discussed and updated.

3. Local Risks and Issues

BT reported the High Level Action Plan had replaced the highlight reports and invited members to raise any issues/concerns contained within the action plan.

Activity 1.2 - SN reported a Task and Finish Group has been set up to review the impact and to consider how things have changed since the introduction of the new Bail Act. Outcomes and findings from the Task and Finish Group would be provided at the next SSCJP meeting.

Action: SN to provide outcomes and findings from the Bail Act Task and Finish Group at the next SSCJP meeting.

JN reported there are still national issues and challenges regarding the changes contained within the Bail Act. Impact on public confidence has been seen to help but the fallout of losing cases in the system is seen as a huge negative.

Activity 1.4 – JN reported the disclosure issue had not gone away. There had recently been a change in Attorney General and nationally they are looking to introduce a new Disclosure Action Plan 2. Disclosure has a huge impact on investigations compounded by the latest announcement to review significant amounts of digital/electronic media.

CH noted the increase in the use of digital evidence will slow down the throughput of RASSO cases through the system. **Noted**

JN suggested there should be a more collaborative approach and engagement with defence and the judiciary regarding disclosure issues going forward. **Noted**

JN added the Regional Disclosure Event is scheduled for 3rd October 2018.

Activities 3.0 - 3.7 agenda items for discussion during the Collaborative Session.

Activity 4.6 – JN reported horizon scanning remains ongoing.

Activity 4.8 – BT reported some work has already started via the Reducing Re-Offending Group with input from KSS CRC and other partners.

4. AOB

BT reported the National Criminal Justice Board (NCJB) had approved national roll-out of the DA best practice framework to transform the CJ response to DA and enhance the level of support available to victims. DA regional leads for the police, CPS and HMCTS have been requested to identify individuals/forums best placed to coordinate the implementation of the DA best practice framework locally. The best practice components have reduced from ten to four. The DA best practice framework has also informed a revision to the Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts (SDAC) resource manual which is the gold standard for accredited SDACs. The National DA Best Practice Delivery Group will also have oversight of the compliance of those remaining SDACs. The proposal is for areas to send back to the national delivery group their quarterly returns for review.

BT suggested key members from the DA Management Board or Victim and Witness Group may be best placed to take this work forward.

BT added he was disappointed with the content of the report as it had not advanced since the review in 2016 and it did not include Stalking and Harassment or Family matters.

JN suggested a proper review of SDAC's would be appropriate to ensure the Transforming Summary Justice components are incorporated going forward.

Members confirmed they had not seen sight or been made aware of the new DA best practice framework.

EK reported she was disappointed as there appeared to be a lack of joined up thinking and communication to relevant key partners such as Local Authorities.

DM asked if a joint response back to the National DA Best Practice Delivery Group was appropriate.

Action: BT to liaise with key partners taking this work forward to see if a joint approach can be taken. An update will be given at the next meeting.

Close – Jaswant Narwal

JN thanked members for their time and input during the meeting.

Future Meeting:

Wednesday 5th December – Schofield Room, Mount Browne, Surrey Police HQ, Guildford