

Sussex Criminal Justice Board Meeting Minutes

09:30 – 10:20hrs, Wednesday 7th March 2018
Sackville House, Lewes

1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations – Katy Bourne

Katy Bourne (Chairman)	Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	KB
Lisa Ramsarran	CPS	LR
Mark Streater	Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	MSt
Dave Manning	HM Courts & Tribunals Service	DMA
Simon Nelson	Sussex Police	SN
Suki Binning	Seetec Group- Kent, Surrey & Sussex CRC (<i>dial in</i>)	SB
Nick Pascoe	HM Prison and Probation Service	NP
Andrea Saunders	HM Prison and Probation Service	AS
Emily King	West Sussex County Council	EK
Peter Castleton	Brighton and Hove City Council	PC
Jo Player	Brighton and Hove City Council	JP
Rob McCauley	Legal Aid Agency	RM
Maralyn Smith	Victim Support	MS
Christiane Jourdain	NHS England	CJ
Peter Gates	NHS England	PG
Sam Sanderson	Women in CJS – Project Manager	SS
Rebecca Hills	Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RH
Tania Riedel	Sussex YOT's	TR
Bruce Tippen	SSCJP Business Manager	BT
Lindsey Parris	SSCJP	LP

Observing:

David Munro	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner	DM
Pippa Clark	Surrey County Council	PCI

Apologies received from:

Jaswant Narwal	Chief Crown Prosecutor – CPS	JN
Samantha Allen	Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	SA
Debbie Cropanese	HM Courts & Tribunals Service – Head of Crime	DC
Wendy Tattersall	Public Health England	WT
Susanne Jarman	Citizens Advice – Witness Service	SJ
Justine Armstrong-Smith	East Sussex County Council	JAS
Rodney Warren	Warrens Solicitors	RW
Ian Whiteside	HMP Bronzefield	IW
Vicky Robinson	HMP Bronzefield	VR
Laurence Taylor	Sussex Police	LT
Jane Macdougall	WMC Legal LLP	JM
Stephen Fradley	HMP Ford	SF
Anne Elgeti	NHS England	AE

KB welcomed members to the SCJB meeting and reported it would be Peter Castleton's last SCJB meeting owing to his retirement. On behalf of the Board she thanked Peter for all his support and welcomed Jo Player to her first SCJB meeting. KB also welcomed Peter Gates from NHS England and Superintendent Simon Nelson who were also attending their first SCJB meeting.

Declarations of Interest:

None received.

2. Minutes and Rolling Action Log from previous meeting 6th September 2017

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

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

3. Women's Justice – Triage and Diversion

SS gave a presentation on Whole System Approach – Female Offenders New Triage and Diversion (T & D) Women's project (presentation attached with notes).

SS highlighted that the Triage and Diversion initiative is a new piece of work drawing on lessons learnt from current Surrey and Sussex projects. This new initiative will test out a wider cohort of women offenders over and above the police custody sites. This work will include voluntary attendance at police stations and broader out of court disposals. The initiative aims to develop a sustainable model not completely reliant on partner grants where the commissioned partner will need to generate their own income.

SS asked members if they had any questions.

RH asked if there would be better coverage of Triage and Diversion staff in custody centres across Sussex.

SS reported the new project would ensure the right people were in the right place at the right time and this will be backed up with a robust out of hour's process. SS added Sussex Police will have a detailed matrix to follow regarding the arrest process.

DM reported the Sussex Triage and Diversion Project appeared very similar to the Surrey Women's Justice Intervention Project and asked SS if she had been in contact with Surrey colleagues.

SS confirmed she had been in contact with Surrey colleagues via the Surrey Transforming Justice Board. A joint Action Learning Set with Surrey and Sussex colleagues had already been delivered back in 2017.

BT added that SCJB had purchased research from Surrey and is awaiting the Surrey University evaluation.

EK added that West Sussex County Council is also awaiting evaluation from Surrey University on Women's Diversion Project.

MSt asked if the recent changes to the Bail Act would affect the project.

SS reported she had been in contact with HMCTS about the possibility of attaching conditions and added this will be an ongoing piece of work.

MS asked is there would be a referral pathway for Victims and Witnesses.

SS reported the new provider has a good knowledge of referrals pathways but SS would liaise with MS outside the meeting to discuss this matter further.

Action: SS and MS to liaise outside the meeting to discuss Victim and Witness referral pathways.

SB asked if there was scope within the project to go wider than just women and if the project links in with the Lammy Report and the report findings.

SB added she would also welcome a formal Board response to the Lammy Review.

BT noted that Lammy and other considerations about protected characteristics need to be included in our own new SSCJP Delivery Plan in the section on fairness.

Action: BT to ensure Lammy is included in the new Action Plan for a SSCJP response.

SS reported good quality data capture will also be an opportunity to test out the Lammy recommendations.

KB noted that West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council and Sussex Police had all made financial contributions to the project and noted Brighton & Hove City Council and Health providers had not engaged to date.

CJ reported she was responsible for commissioning the Liaison and Diversion Service and whilst supportive of the project finance for community based projects sits with local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's)

Action: RH to pass on local CCG contact details to SS.

PC reported he and JP would have a conversation with SS outside the meeting.

Action: PC/JP to have a conversation with SS regarding financial contributions for the Triage and Diversion Women's Project outside the meeting.

EK reported she is waiting for an evaluation from Surrey University and once a richer picture is known further finance may become available.

KB asked who will be carrying out an evaluation of the Project.

SS reported Surrey University would not be willing to come to Sussex but she is looking to engage with Crest Analytics. On-going discussions continue.

KB asked about the governance of the Sussex project, who will manage the contract and who will be responsible for setting clear Key Performance Indicators.

BT reported the Sussex Reducing Re-Offending Group Co-Chaired by Superintendent Simon Nelson the Project Lead would oversee the contract and scrutiny of the project. This is also supported by a small group of commissioners of the Triage and Diversion Project.

KB asked SS if she thought income generation for a 12 month contract would be feasible for providers.

SS confirmed she is confident that the new provider will be able to raise additional income and added there had already been some good examples of income generation for similar projects.

EK reported utilisation of a crowd funding platform is already delivering finances for other projects.

KB asked how much had been spent on the project so far and who has financial oversight.

BT reported 85K will have been spent by the end of year one – April 2018 which included the Project Managers salary, Stakeholder Engagement, Action Learning Sets and Research.

BT added the OSPCC Chief Finance Officer - Iain McCulloch oversees the budget for Whole System Approach funding and Sussex Police will have oversight of the Triage and Diversion project finances.

KB added she would like to be kept sighted and updated on the project developments going forward.

KB added she would advise the project group to keep financial governance tight and concentrate on Women's Justice rather than expanding the project to other cohorts.

AS reported she is working with HMCTS and offering training for Magistrates regarding sentencing of women and asked SS what were her timescales for engagement with HMCTS.

SS reported she had already engaged with HMCTS and she is currently waiting for more information from HMCTS. Action Learning Sets are planned with HMCTS staff and prison staff (primarily HMP Bronzefield and HMP Send) to see how this strand of work can be progressed and moved forward. Promotion and engagement with HMCTS and Prisons remains on-going.

KB thanked SS for her presentation and requested a further update is presented at the next SCJB meeting on 6th June 2018.

Action: SS to provide a further update on the Triage and Diversion Women's Project at the next SSCJP meeting on 6th June 2018.

4. Performance, Risks, Highlight Reports

BT referred to the Key Performance Indicator sheet and reported Domestic Abuse Victim Withdrawal was slightly higher than national average. BT added there continues to be a high percentage of DA work within Sussex Police which influences the overall performance rate. This area of work will continue to be reviewed and monitored.

BT added RASSO – Successful Convictions were slightly down on the last quarter and will be discussed further during the Collaborative Session.

MS asked what group monitors Victim/Witness Withdrawal performance.

BT reported the Sussex Victim and Witness Group and Sussex DA Management Board oversee DA performance but overall victim withdrawals will need to be included within scope of the proposed Core Performance Group.

5. AOB

None

Close – Katy Bourne

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

Future Meeting:

Wednesday 6th June – Surrey Police HQ – Schofield Room