



## Surrey and Sussex Criminal Justice Partnerships Meeting Minutes – Collaborative Session

10:25 -12:15hrs, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
Surrey Police HQ, Schofield Room, Guildford GU3 1HG

### 1. Welcome and Apologies – David Munro

David Munro	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner ( <b>Chairman</b> )	DM
Frank Ferguson	Chief Crown Prosecutor – South East ( <b>Vice-Chairman</b> )	FF
Lisa Herrington	Office of the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner	LH
Mark Streater	Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	MSt
Jenny Offord	CPS	JO
Manjinder Purewal	KSS – Community Rehabilitation Company	MP
Clive Davies	Surrey Police	CD
Tony Grant	Surrey Police	TG
Nev Kemp	Surrey Police	NK
Rob Harris	Surrey Police	RH
Nick May	Sussex Police ( <i>dial in</i> )	NM
Robin Brennan	HM Prison and Probation Service	RB
Sara Coccia	HM Prison and Probation Service	SC
Till Sanderson	Sussex Police ( <i>dial in</i> )	TS
Christiane Jourdain	NHS England	CJ
Alison Fowler	NHS England	AF
Karen Friel	Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	KF
Rebecca Hills	Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RH
Dave Manning	HM Courts & Tribunals Service	DMa
Gail Rogers	Surrey County Council	GR
Emily King	West Sussex County Council	EK
Tania Riedel	Sussex YOS	TR
Maralyn Smith	Victim Support	MS
Bruce Tippen	SSCJP Business Manager	BT
Lindsey Parris	SSCJP	LP

#### Observing:

<i>Bridget Biddell</i>	<i>High Sheriff (Surrey)</i>	<i>BB</i>
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#### **Apologies received from:**

<i>Katy Bourne</i>	<i>Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (<b>Chairman</b>)</i>	<i>KB</i>
<i>Sam Goolding</i>	<i>Surrey Police</i>	<i>SG</i>
<i>Simon Nelson</i>	<i>Sussex Police</i>	<i>SN</i>
<i>Jason Taylor</i>	<i>Sussex Police</i>	<i>JT</i>
<i>Wendy Tattersall</i>	<i>Public Health England</i>	<i>WT</i>
<i>Justine Armstrong-Smith</i>	<i>East Sussex County Council</i>	<i>JAS</i>
<i>Jo Player</i>	<i>Brighton and Hove City Council</i>	<i>JP</i>
<i>Stephen Fradley</i>	<i>HMP Ford</i>	<i>SF</i>
<i>Rob McCauley</i>	<i>Legal Aid Agency</i>	<i>RM</i>
<i>Samantha Allen</i>	<i>Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust</i>	<i>SA</i>
<i>Sally Varah</i>	<i>Deputy Lord Lieutenant – Surrey</i>	<i>SV</i>
<i>Mark Burden</i>	<i>HM Prison and Probation Service</i>	<i>MB</i>
<i>Sam Sanderson</i>	<i>Sussex Police</i>	<i>SS</i>

**Absent:**

Claire Mullarkey	HMCTS	CM
Susanne Jarman	Citizens Advice – Witness Service	SJ
Vicky Robinson	HMP Bronzefield	VR
Ian Whiteside	HMP Bronzefield	IW
Rodney Warren	Warrens Solicitors	RW

DM welcomed members to the collaborative session.

**Declarations of Interest:**

None received

**2. Minutes and Rolling Action Log from previous meeting 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

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

The Action Log (separate document) was discussed and updated. Both actions on main agenda and discharged – SSCJP Chairmen letters have been sent to the Regional Delivery Director, HMCTS and current funding table presented to Board.

**3. SARC Services Procurement**

AF confirmed the intention of SARC's remain to:

- Reduce sexual assaults
- Increase protection for victims
- Provide sustainable and joint consistent service

There are currently 2 adult SARC's (Crawley and Cobham) and a children's SARC in Brighton. NHSE are engaging in a 12 – 18 month process to review its strategy through consultation with key partners. We need a more appropriate workforce, a single point of contact for victims, compliance with new forensic standard and a new model – “tell the story once”

The current SARC contract is due to come to an end in 18 months and confirmed engagement and consultation with partners, stakeholders and providers is required to assist with the procurement process and to ensure a sustainable and enhanced service is provided going forward. The procurement process is due to finish in September 2019 with mobilisation expected in 2020.

CJ added NHSE are now moving into a pre-procurement phase – pre market engagement and we need to link in with PCC's as the police make a substantial investments in SARC's and we need to make sure you are receiving a good service. There is potential for another 5 year service.

AF reported the consultation phase will run from now until the end of September 19.

The recent Health Need Analysis will assist with demographics.

MSt reported the Office of the Sussex PCC would like to be involved in the procurement process.

DM reported he would also welcome an invitation to engage.

LH noted she has less involvement with SARC Services but she does help commission the Rape and Sexual Assault Centre in Guildford.

AF reported NHSE would like to share the procurement model with partners and stakeholders for their review and comments. NHSE will also set up workshop/seminar events across Surrey and Sussex for further input.

EK reported WSCC would be happy to assist by hosting an event to bring people together and suggested engagement with the voluntary sector would also be beneficial.

DM confirmed SARC services are vitally important and asked AF to pass on his thanks to colleagues already working in the SARC's.

**Action: CJ to circulate contact details for SARC engagement via SCJB Support Team.**

**4. RASSO – Performance against Objectives**

TS reported in terms of RASSO in Sussex there is an ongoing improving picture although there has been a slippage around timeliness.

**Files authorised RLO first time** – 42 cases submitted to RLO for review – one more than the previous quarter. There has been a consistent increase on average quarterly submissions over the last four quarters.

The percentage submitted first time to CPS remains low but is improving with a 7% increase over the previous quarter bringing it up to 19%. Training is still being rolled-out within public protection departments and with public protection supervisors to highlight the current issues.

RASSO Champions have been identified around the county and disclosure training from Red Snapper is continuing.

**Timeliness**—average days has increased by 26.2 days from the previous quarter but remains considerably lower (70 days) than Jan-Mar 2018. There are no specific issues that have been identified that may have affected this increase.

**Number of live cases under investigation** – live cases under investigation have reduced by 13 – this number was recorded on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**The solved crime rate** – solved crime rate continues to reduce – 7.9% (Jan-Mar 2018) down to 5.5% (Jan-Mar 2019). The changes made in March last year by CPS to the approach to charging should now have taken affect and the solved crime rate should now be levelling out. Further investigation will be conducted into the figures to identify any obvious causes for the continued decline.

RB reported in terms of RASSO cases in Surrey:

**Files authorised RLO first time**- This has increased by 2 from last quarter. Discussions with the Sussex RASSO Liaison Officer (RLO) considered how the RLO function operates and comparative standards as Sussex submit more files first time. Both forces are applying the same standards in reviews and using the same extended MG3 RASSO template. The majority of 'first submission' cases in Sussex are, however, from officers who have greater understanding of the RASSO process through repeat experience. The lower volume of cases and lesser experience of Surrey investigators could be a factor. 'RASSO Champions'- Detectives who have completed good quality case files and taken cases to Crown Court- have been introduced to support their colleagues.

Revised guidance on case file compilation has been circulated to investigators to consolidate 1-2-1 meetings and team briefings/training. With greater onus on the Sergeant in supervising investigation and file standards, it allow DIs to focus on the evidential and public interest review. To identify improvement in quality or specific learning, RLO reviews on 'rework' cases are now monitoring the number and nature of actions required, rather than simply 'pass' or 'fail'.

**Timeliness**– This remained consistent with last quarter. Improving the timescales we deal with CPS action plans will further reduce this. There is still continued scrutiny at a senior level on a bi-weekly basis. A number of contracted investigators have been introduced to SOIT to assist with demand. Surrey Police has employed an external provider to transcribe victim and offender interviews which will save 100's of hours of time.

**Number of live cases under investigation** is consistent with the last quarter (1015). Nb. last update provided 'recorded' crime data not live investigations.

**The solved crime rate** has reduced. This is due to fewer CPS submissions. Administrative error delayed the number of cases being allocated at CPS issues however this was quickly resolved. We have seen a rise in submissions in the current quarter and CPS currently have 16 cases for assessment.

FF noted having embedded officers in CPS offices across Surrey and Sussex was a ground breaking decision which is now being adopted as best practice nationally. We need to recognise the commitment from both forces.

FF suggested conviction rate is too high and some work may be required to get more difficult cases coming through the system. This is not just about gatekeeping but the need to improve capability.

FF agreed NFA Panels were a good thing.

NM noted that over the last 5 years the number of RASSO cases have gone up 3 fold so demand and capacity remains an issue, however, Sussex Police have recently increased the detective pay scales with the ambition to attract more DC's. Sussex has a significant gap in investigators.

MSt noted the charging ratio was 40% and asked what needs to be done to improve this. Where is the vigour for improving the volume of cases that do not come to charge?

FF reported the scrutiny panel was a good start but nationally charging figures are going down.

RB reported DA rape cases are the most difficult type of cases to get through to charging and then through a jury.

DM reported he was satisfied that structures and resources are in place to continue the focus of this ongoing work/issues and also monitor themes and trends.

DM requested a detailed RASSO update and report in 6 months at the SSCJP meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

**Action: RH/TS to prepare and present a detailed RASSO update at the SSCJP meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

#### **5. Released under Investigation – update on risk assessment**

CD reported following changes to the Bail Act bail rates have dropped significantly which is causing concern nationally. In Surrey bail is used for vulnerable people and high risk cases. Robust measures are in place to monitor the use of bail, regular dip sample are carried to verify appropriate action has been taken and a daily crime review is carried out on divisions.

CD added last year Surrey Police bail rate was 13% it has now increased to 20%. Surrey Police are one of highest forces to use bail.

NM reported in Sussex bail rates are moving in the right direction. Bail is used for all DA, vulnerability and safeguarding cases. DCI Fanner has been tasked to carry out a piece of work looking at bail and RUI to get a better understanding of how these cases are managed.

A further update will be presented at the next SSCJP meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

MSt asked if the police had seen an increase in the number of warrants issued and a subsequent increase in police time to manage this.

CD/NM reported there was an increase in the number of warrants issued but there are now good working practices in place and both forces are on top it.

CD noted at a recent National CJ Conference there was overall agreement that changes to the Bail Act has caused many issues nationally.

FF requested that both forces have an overview of all RUI's across the board and ensure the NPCC guidance around pre-charge bail and RUI is adopted. **Noted**

**Action: Police leads to report back at the next SSCJP on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 with an overview of RUI and uptake of NPCC Guidance.**

#### **6. Future Probation**

RB reported following the announcement from Justice Secretary David Gauke on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 the future of probation will bring all offender management under the National Probation Service (NPS) and building on existing work to bring down reoffending. It will re-integrate the system for offender management.

These reforms are designed to build on the successful elements of the existing system Transforming Rehabilitation which led to 40,000 additional offenders being supervised every year, along with the introduction of fresh ideas and innovative new rehabilitative services from private and voluntary providers.

The reforms will enhance the work of NPS while maximising the skills of the private and voluntary sectors and will provide up to £280 million a year for probation interventions from the private and voluntary sectors.

Under the new model each NPS region will have a dedicated, private or voluntary sector 'Innovation Partner' - responsible for direct provision of unpaid work and accredited programmes. This will support NPS to identify, encourage and deliver greater innovation for vital services including substance misuse programmes, training courses, community payback and housing support.

The new model will also give local criminal justice partners a direct role in commissioning services together with NPS. RB added that Surrey has received a great range of services from the CRC.

MP reported 60 - 70% of the current CRC workload will go back to NPS and skilled and experienced staff may be lost during this period of unsettlement

Providers will be bidding for a small piece of the overall system and there are risks that these new entities may not have the skills to deliver this work effectively without the offender management skills. The new system will cause fragmentation of interventions and KSSCRC has a very successful track record of interventions.

MP added in the meantime the CRC will continue business as usual.

#### **7. SCCJP Funding 2019-20 - Update**

BT reported letters from both Chairmen have been sent to Donna Bolton HMCTS Delivery Directory for the South East querying their contribution for Surrey and Sussex Boards 2019/20. HMCTS have approved £5,000 in total but in previous years they had approved £5,000 for each board.

**Post meeting note: HMCTS response received – pledge uplifted to £3000 for each Board. The current budget deficit now stands at £8,000.**

BT thanked partners who contributed to the 2018-19 budget pop-up request in March 2019 and special thanks were given to Christiane Jourdain – NHSE who contributed £2,000.

**8. Partner Updates**

MP reported the result of the recent KSS CRC HMIC Inspection is due within the next couple of weeks.

**9. AOB**

Maralyn Smith – Victim Support was awarded a certificate and presented with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of 28 years outstanding and dedicated commitment for the people of Surrey and Sussex - an Ambassador in promoting and improving the outcomes for victims and witnesses on their journey through the Criminal Justice System.

The award was presented by the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner – David Munro.

**Close – David Munro**

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

**Next Meeting:**

***Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – OSPCC Sackville House, Lewes, BN7 2FZ***