



Sussex Criminal Justice Board Meeting Minutes

09:30 – 10:20hrs, Wednesday 11th September 2019
Sackville House, Lewes, BN7 2FZ

1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations – Katy Bourne

Katy Bourne	Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (Chairman)	KB
Frank Ferguson	Chief Crown Prosecutor - South East (Vice Chairman)	FF
HH Judge Laing	Judiciary	HHJL
Mark Streater	Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	MSt
Dave Manning	HM Courts & Tribunals Service	Dma
Nick May	Sussex Police	NM
Chris Mayle	Sussex Police	CM
Mark Burden	HM Prison and Probation Service	MB
Stephen Fradley	HMP Ford	SF
Susan Howard	HM Prison and Probation Service	SH
Nicola Maxwell	Sussex YOS	NMa
Emily King	West Sussex County Council	EK
Jo Player	Brighton and Hove City Council	JP
Justine Armstrong-Smith	East Sussex County Council	JAS
Rebecca Hills	Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RH
Kay Birch	Victim Support	KBi
Rob McCauley	Legal Aid Agency	RM
Sam Sanderson	Sussex Police	SS
Kev Hennings	Emerging Futures	KH
David Smith	Frame Solicitors	DS
Bruce Tippen	SSCJP Business Manager	BT
Lindsey Parris	SSCJP	LP

Observing:

Susie Miller	Office of Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	SM
David Munro	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner	DM
Joanna Brennan	Youth Justice Board	JB

Apologies received from:

<i>Jenny Offord</i>	<i>CPS</i>	<i>JO</i>
<i>Tania Riedel</i>	<i>Sussex YOS</i>	<i>TR</i>
<i>Manjinder Purewal</i>	<i>KSS Community Rehabilitation Company</i>	<i>MP</i>
<i>Simon Nelson</i>	<i>Sussex Police</i>	<i>SN</i>
<i>Julia Chapman</i>	<i>Sussex Police</i>	<i>JC</i>
<i>Claire Mullarkey</i>	<i>HMCTS</i>	<i>JM</i>
<i>Samantha Allen</i>	<i>Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust</i>	<i>SA</i>
<i>Hannah Lane</i>	<i>HMP Lewes</i>	<i>HL</i>
<i>Violet Hancock</i>	<i>High Sheriff – East Sussex</i>	<i>VH</i>

Absent:

Wendy Penfold	Public Health England	WP
Susanne Jarman	Citizens Advice – Witness Service	SJ
Anne Elgeti	NHS England	AE
Vicky Robinson	HMP Bronzefield	VR
Ian Whiteside	HMP Bronzefield	IW

KB welcomed all to the meeting and particularly new members HH Judge Laing, Kay Birch (Victim Support), Susan Howard (HMPPS), and David Smith (Defence). Joanna Brennan (Youth Justice Board) was welcomed as an observer.

Declarations of Interest:

None received

2. Minutes and Rolling Action Log from previous meeting 5th June 2019

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

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

3. Homeless High Risk Offenders

Funding arrangements present and future – West Sussex

MB thanked members for their hard work and their collaboration with other partners to help secure an extension of the CGL Housing Support contract in West Sussex until 2020. West Sussex County Council, NPS, PCC, Sussex Police and Districts and Boroughs have all provided funding to enable the contract to be extended.

MB noted this was not a long term solution and partners will need to consider a different way of working going forward such as reviewing the model of delivery and building alliances and partnerships with current and new organisations.

MB added he was hopeful there may be potential for additional funding via the HMPPS Rough Sleepers Initiative to assist with homeless high risk offenders in Sussex.

MB reported NPS will soon be moving to a regional structure and a new regional director will be appointed. Homeless high risk offenders will remain high on the NPS agenda.

Update of SCJB workshop actions

BT thanked MB and SF who had both agreed to continue leadership for this piece of work on behalf of the SCJB. A draft homeless-offenders action plan has been prepared which contains 4 priority areas:

- CJS partners (SCJB) demonstrating commitment to reducing re-offending
- Understanding the landscape across Sussex
- Developing an effective co-ordinated response
- Resilient commissioning arrangements for future

BT reported the Sussex Reducing Re-Offending Group agreed the 4 priority areas at their last meeting which was held on 19th August 2019. A Task and Finish Group will take this work forward.

BT thanked EK who has pledged resource time, JAS who has submitted several returns and provided helpful advice and Kev Hennings from Emerging Futures who has provided information on West Sussex HARP bid, community assets for Surrey and Sussex and examples of cooperative work in East Sussex.

BT added national guidance issued through MoJ/MHCLG will help develop local protocols going forward.

JAS confirmed she would be willing to support the project and added additional funding may be available via Homes England and the East Sussex Rough Sleepers Initiative.

MB reported it will be helpful to understand how all the funding streams work and how they can be accessed whilst also reaching out to Districts and Boroughs for their engagement.

MSt thanked members who were engaged in the project and agreed it was important for criminal justice partners to engage with Districts and Boroughs.

MSt added Natalie Brahma-Pearl (Chief Executive - Crawley Borough Council) was very much engaged with this area of work and he asked if there was anyone similar in the east of the county.

JAS agreed to provide linkage with housing directors in East Sussex whilst noting it would also be useful to identify those who may have potential to secure additional funding.

Action: JAS to provide SCJB link with housing directors in East Sussex to enable SCJB to engage effectively with the group or identify a single point of contact (SPOC).

JP agreed to progress directly with housing leads in Brighton & Hove as it forms part of her portfolio.

Action: JP to act as SCJB SPOC with housing leads in Brighton & Hove.

Action: EK to act as SCJB SPOC for West Sussex.

KH reported Emerging Futures are hoping to sign a lease within the next week for a 12 bed premises for female offenders. There is an ambition for a provision for male offenders going forward.

KB reported she was delighted to see good partnership working and the SCJB progressing this work.

4. Performance Overview

BT reported there were no performance exceptions to report but noted an example of disparity continues to exist in relation to Crown Court offence to completion rates where Sussex cases take on average 10 weeks longer than national average (50 weeks). Data indicates that 30 weeks is used on average prior to charge and 30 weeks after charge to conclusion of case. This issue is being monitored via the Core Performance Group. Improving performance continues with RASSO conviction rates since January 2018.

MSt raised concern regarding the decline of case file quality figures for Crown Court.

BT reported the original base line figures for case file quality were overly high.

FF reported current case file quality figures are more realistic and he was pleased to see there was a case file quality gold group looking at this area of work which will be chaired by ACC Chapman going forward.

MSt asked if the lack of investigators across the force was a risk or threat.

NM reported the lack of investigators nationally is a challenge but the force are working hard with recruitment and a direct entry scheme for investigators. On-going works continues.

BT reported the High Level Action Plan has been updated and was for members' information only. No exceptions raised.

5. Whole System Approach

Women's Steps to Change (WSTC) Evaluation

SS and KH gave a combined project update and overview.

- Trauma Informed, Multi-agency and Lived Experience approaches
- 282 referrals over the cycle of the project of which 163 engaged and were supported to a rate of overall 58% compliance
- Main pathways – Mental Health and general health needs including engagement with SARC's, Alcohol Treatment, Domestic Abuse, Debt/Finances, Housing needs – in some cases housing being able to be offered within 24 to 48 hours.
- Softer outcomes to link women into Women's Centres, counselling services and drop in centres to build upon self-esteem and confidence issues.

KH reported Emerging Futures do not signpost they take people to their appointments and over 55 organisations across Sussex have been engaged with the project.

SS/KH both acknowledged the excellent work of the project coaches/mentors many of whom have come through the criminal justice systems themselves and who have lived experiences. Four additional females are currently being trained with an ambition to offering them employment going forward.

KH thanked Sussex Police SOIT teams and SARC personnel for their help and assistance throughout the project.

WSA Year 3 Activities

SS reported year 3 activities will include:

- Working with (currently engaged) women with complex needs
- Mapping work – deeper dive (gender specific)
- Working with NPS/HMCTS to improve sentencing options
- Developing a co-operative approach for future funding
- Reviewing ongoing/increasing accommodation provision

SH reported she was impressed by the good work and what has been achieved so far. A trauma informed approach where you meet the client, understand where they are and work with them was a welcomed approach.

SS confirmed assessments are based around the individual and what they need or require.

KB asked about project costs to date and future resilience. BT confirmed the MoJ WSA funding for this work will end in March 2020 (just under £200K) but local partners have also provided finances to support testing and piloting so overall costs nearer £280K to date. The Commissioning Cooperative idea will be developed into a future funding coalition.

DM asked if Surrey colleagues were aware of the WSTC project.

KH confirmed DCS Carwyn Hughes at Surrey Police is aware of the project.

MB raised his concern regarding the on-going issue of prisons releasing clients on a Friday or on a Bank Holiday.

HHJL reported following the SCJB workshop at HMP Ford in March 2019 she had written to the previous prison minister to request a client has one day less in prison if it avoids release on a Friday or Bank Holiday. Due to more pressing political issues a response has not been received but she would continue to campaign for no prison releases on a Friday or Bank Holiday wherever possible.

SH reported prison personnel are aware and alive to this issue and ongoing monitoring will continue.

6. AOB

KB reported as part of her new role as Chairman of the APCC she was invited to attend a round table meeting with the Prime Minister on 12th August 2019.

KB asked members if they have any items either nationally or locally to be raised at future round table meetings please get in contact.

Close – Katy Bourne

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

Future Meeting:

Wednesday 18th December 2019 – Surrey Police HQ, Schofield Room, Guildford