



## Sussex Criminal Justice Board Meeting Minutes

09:30 – 10:15hrs, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Sackville House, Lewes BN7 2FZ

### 1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations – Katy Bourne

Katy Bourne (Chairman)	Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	KB
Frank Ferguson	Chief Crown Prosecutor - South East (Vice Chairman)	FF
Mark Streater	Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	MSt
Claire Mullarkey	HM Courts & Tribunals Service (Head of Crime)	CM
Dave Manning	HM Courts & Tribunals Service	Dma
Sam Newbould	KSS Community Rehabilitation Company	SNe
Jason Taylor	Sussex Police	JT
Sam Sanderson	Sussex Police ( <i>dial-in</i> )	SS
Mark Burden	HM Prison and Probation Service	MB
Rob McCauley	Legal Aid Agency	RM
Stephen Fradley	HMP Ford	SF
Tania Riedel	Sussex YOS	TR
Emily King	West Sussex County Council	EK
Jo Player	Brighton and Hove City Council	JP
Maralyn Smith	Victim Support	MS
Bruce Tippen	SSCJP Business Manager	BT
Lindsey Parris	SSCJP	LP
 <u>Observing:</u>		
David Munro	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner	DM
Alison Bolton	Office of the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner	AB
Violet Hancock	High Sheriff (East Sussex)	VH
Davina Irwin-Clark	High Sheriff (West Sussex)	DIC
Kevin Smyth	Under Sheriff	KS
 <b>Apologies received from:</b>		
<i>Sarah Coccia</i>	<i>HM Prison and Probation Service</i>	<i>SC</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>Simon Nelson</i>	<i>Sussex Police</i>	<i>SN</i>
<i>Nick May</i>	<i>Sussex Police</i>	<i>NM</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>SJ</i>
<i>Susanne Jarman</i>	<i>Citizens Advice – Witness Service</i>	<i>JAS</i>
<i>Justine Armstrong-Smith</i>	<i>East Sussex County Council</i>	<i>RW</i>
<i>Anne Elgeti</i>	<i>NHS England</i>	<i>AE</i>
<i>Rodney Warren</i>	<i>Warrens Solicitors</i>	<i>RW</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>Manjinder Purewal</i>	<i>KSS CRC</i>	<i>MP</i>
<i>Jennifer Offord</i>	<i>CPS</i>	<i>JO</i>

KB welcomed members to the SCJB meeting and extended a warm welcome to Frank Ferguson (Vice Chairman) and Claire Mullarkey (HMCTS – Head of Crime) who were both attending their first SCJB meeting, Violet Hancock (High Sheriff - East Sussex, Davina Irwin-

Clark (High Sheriff - West Sussex) and Kevin Smyth (Under Sheriff) who were observing the meeting. The retirement of Jane Macdougall was noted with thanks for her valued support.

**Declarations of Interest:**

None received

**2. Minutes and Rolling Action Log from previous meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

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

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

**3. SCJB Accommodation for Offenders Event**

BT reported as a follow up from the last meeting the SCJB had organised an Accommodation for Offenders Event on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at HMP Ford. Criminal Justice Partners, Local Authority including Districts and Boroughs, Third Sector and Private Landlords will be in attendance with an aim to reduce the risk of re-offending and homelessness through better accommodation opportunities for offenders who are within or leaving the Criminal Justice System. The event will also provide opportunities to showcase current initiatives across Sussex and to forge better alliances between housing authorities, providers and criminal justice partners.

BT thanked Stephen Fradley for agreeing to host the event at HMP Ford and added over 100 delegates had registered to attend the event.

MSt suggested it will be crucial to get engagement from District and Borough Council colleagues. **Noted**

BT reported some District and Borough colleagues were attending the event.

EK suggested there could be challenges for District and Borough colleagues due to end of financial year commitments. **Noted**

DM wished SCJB colleagues every success for the event.

**4. Sussex Performance (including Released under Investigation)**

BT reported the quarterly conviction rate in Magistrates Courts had continued to dip.

FF noted current figures have shown an improvement which is most likely due to the recent CPS case file blitz. Ongoing monitoring would continue via the Core Performance Group.

BT reported recent data indicates lengthening investigation periods prior to charging decisions being taken through postal charging requisitions. Steps have been taken to strengthen the case direction resource to alleviate bottle-necks. Ongoing monitoring would also continue via the Core Performance Group.

BT reported partners had previously expressed concern over data integrity in the way Casefile Quality Assessment is being measured. The latest performance may be taken as a more genuine figure where higher volumes of police files are now measured by CPS. Performance has improved for Magistrates Court work since the previous quarter. Casefile quality at Crown Court has dropped below national average for the second quarter running which may be due to increasing complexities with disclosure.

FF reported the way casefile quality is assessed will be changing again in the near future and further information will follow in due course.

FF added although the quality rate may look worse he assured partners there was nothing to be concerned about at this stage. **Noted**

BT reported RASSO performance would be discussed later in the collaborative session.

BT reported Released under Investigation (RUI) was a recurring theme of concern at the recent national CJ conference and although not captured in data returns police forces have been asked to review local processes.

JT reported the recent changes in legislation had not been helpful in terms of RUI. The governance around RUI is complex and he is currently reviewing where Sussex Police are in terms of RUI cases. The review is likely to take up to three months and he suggested he will give a verbal update at the next meeting.

**Action: JT to report back at the next meeting following his initial review.**

JT added in terms of local RUI supervision there are some good practices taking place but holistic oversight of how RUI cases are managed across Sussex Police is still required.

KB asked who the national police lead is for this stream of work.

BT reported CC Darren Martland – Cheshire Police is the NPCC Lead for this stream of work.

MS asked what RUI processes are in place to keep Victims and Witnesses informed about their cases.

JT reported CI Chris Veale is looking at Victim and Witness issues and suggested MS and CV liaise outside the meeting.

**Action: MS and CV to liaise to discuss what RUI processes are in place to keep Victims and Witnesses informed about their cases.**

RM also asked what RUI processes are in place to keep the defence community updated on RUI cases.

JT reported more work is required to update defence colleague and this will be captured within his internal review of RUI processes.

## 5. Female Offenders – Year 3 decisions

### Managing complex cases/preventative work

SS reported she would like to ensure the Womens Step to Change (WSTC) operating model is maintained but noted further strategic developments will be starting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. The Liaison and Diversion (L&D) team have been commissioned to deliver services across all gender, age, vulnerabilities starting in custody including a women centred approach.

Emerging Futures (current provider) has agreed to renew the WSTC service provision from Apr 19 – Mar 20 but they will only take referrals for complex women particularly those with homelessness issues to avoid duplication of the work the L&D team have been commissioned to deliver.

Emerging Futures will:

- Continue with the peer lead coaching model providing an effective and holistic approach
- Work with police teams prioritising the top 10 most complex women and young girls aged 16+ both as offenders and victims of crime
- Coaches will work with these women over a four to six month period (longer if required) and ensure they interface with all agencies both statutory and non-statutory
- Ensure coaches continue to refer a diverse range of community partnerships around nine pathways
- Continue to work at the court stage providing updates on progress so that sentencers are more confident that these women are motivated to address their complexities and vulnerabilities and minimise the need for short term remands and custodial sentences

Data will be collated around referrals, pathways of support, gaps in service, delivery and outcomes of interventions. A portfolio of case studies will be provided allowing real-live narratives/stories to be captured and communicated to wider stakeholders ensuring “voices are being heard”

Funding in place for this stream of work has come from key stakeholders – Brighton and Hove City Council, Chichester Community Safety Partnership and Sussex Police. Funding will be used to sustain existing staffing levels, recruitment and training of further staff peer mentors to enable continued work with women entering and exiting the Criminal Justice System.

### Mapping Services

There is a lack of consistent shared learning from national projects so opportunities for growth can be missed resulting in a risk of duplication of services/pilots across the country.

*Outcomes to be achieved:*

- Local mapping to services linked to pathways pan Sussex
- Local mapping of women focused services and referral pathways
- Work with the Justice Innovation Team to bring a country wide mapping of services
- Build of a flagship approach around the one-stop-shop provision so all agencies are linked

### Building of Sentencers confidence

The judiciary are not clear that Rehabilitation Act Requirements are being implemented effectively or successfully in addressing offender behaviour so there is an opportunity to consider alternatives to short-term sentencing.

*Outcomes to be achieved*

- Problem solving courts to be rolled out nationally to include specific partnership work to address issues prior to sentencing
- Trauma, Stalking, The Female Offender Strategy and Child Exploitation training to become mandatory to ensure all have an understanding of complexities in alliance with NPS court staff.

Funding streams to be explored in collaboration with NPS, HMPPS and MoJ.

### Bespoke accommodation provision with links to the enhanced Through the Gate Provision

Sussex has no bespoke dedicated women's housing provision that can accommodate their complex needs or allows women to have a safe environment where they can start to integrate back to their communities.

#### *Outcomes to be achieved*

- All women who are homeless in Sussex divert them away from the streets to safer housing
- Women's complex needs, released from prison at risk of domestic abuse or any risk to her well-being/safety will be met through providing a bespoke wrap-around support service to safe bespoke accommodation
- Allow and families to rebuild their relationships in a safe and managed environment
- Local organisations and charities will have an opportunity to show case their skill sets and their expertise to manage the needs of women in Sussex by working in partnership with local teams.

Some funding has been acquired through NPS and start-up costs from Emerging Futures. Further funding is being sought via the MoJ.

EK asked if there were any further funding streams that may available to allow the project to continue into Year 4.

SS reported the outlook for further funding is looking rather bleak. The MoJ pilot for 5 Residential Women Centres across the country has not yet been agreed. The Big Lottery required consolidation with other areas. Comic Relief felt the project was not innovative enough. However, there is a possibility of gaining further funding from smaller trusts and this work remains on-going.

TR asked how complex cases for 16 year olds are being linked in with Youth Services in Sussex.

SS suggested to meet TR outside the meeting to discuss this matter further and in more detail.

**Action: SS to meet with TR to discuss how complex cases for 16 year olds are being linked in with Youth Services in Sussex.**

The Whole Systems Approach to Female Offenders meets the Sussex Criminal Justice Boards objectives around reducing-reoffending, victims and witnesses and community safety and SS asked members for their approval to the proposals for the Sussex Whole Systems Approach - Year 3. **Agreed**

#### 6. **AOB**

None

#### **Close – Katy Bourne**

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

#### **Future Meeting:**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Surrey Police HQ, Mount Brown, Guildford