



**REDACTED Minutes of the Dorset Criminal Justice Board
Held on Thursday 14th November 2019
Boardrooms 2 & 3 at Police Headquarters, Winfrith, Dorchester, DT2 8DZ**

Attendance

James Vaughan, Chief Constable, Dorset Police (JV) (Chair)

Nikki Haywood, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor (NH)

David Webb, Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service (DW)

Jan Steadman, Head of CJ and Custody, Dorset Police (JS)

Jason Mumford, Dorset OPCC (JM)

Ben Hargreaves, Detective Chief Superintendent, Head of Crime & Criminal Justice, Dorset Police (BH)

Tina Ridge, Head of (Dorset) National Probation Service (TR)

Martyn Underhill, Police and Crime Commissioner, Dorset (MU)

John Facey, Legal Aid Agency (JF)

Emma Richards, CRC (ER)

Steve Lyne, Head of Corporate Development, Dorset Police (SL)

Callum Bremner, Bench Chair, Lead Dorset Magistrates (CB)

Sarah Rollinson, Deputy Head of Corporate Comms, Dorset Police (SR)

Eugene Yafele, Dorset Healthcare – Dialed in

Fiona Sullivan, Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire & IOW Criminal Justice Board Business Manager (FS) (Minutes)

Jen Culver, Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire & IOW Criminal Justice Board Business Manager (JC)

Guest Attendance (agenda item 3)

Gavin Dudfield, Dorset Police

Jared Parkin, Dorset Police

Apologies

Wendy Waterman, HMCTS SW Region Head of Crime (WW)

Richard Bennett, Deputy Clerk, HMCTS (RB)

Steve Hodson, Governor, HMPS (SHD)

Joanne Jakymec, Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS Wessex (JJ)

Kevin Hill, Hill Twine Solicitors (KH)

Elaine Morgan, CRC (EM)

Item	Title	Action
1.	Welcome, Introductions and apologies (S) [FOIA Open] Apologies were noted.	

Item	Title	Action
<p>2.</p>	<p>Court Video Link Usage <i>Concerns highlighted on the reasons for drop in use of video link and plans to improve</i></p> <p>JS updated that Nicki Philp (Dorset CJ Team) has pulled together a good multi-agency working group to start looking at how to improve this performance. Some of the reasons have been due to the availability of witness service volunteers to run the remote link facility which has now been resolved. There have also been technical issues with the [REDACTED] live link facility in the SARC. The working group are looking closely at the availability of special measures for victims. There has been a comms campaign within the police to try and drive up usage making sure all officers are aware of the facility and its capability. The working group are producing a video together to improve the message out there, and this will take a few months to see an improvement. There have been cases that have been lined up ready to use the link and then cases have either been dismissed, adjourned or guilty plea given before trial. This is on-going work to try to increase usage and will be closely watched. Back in Aug 2017 there was 14 cases in one month and in last 12 months just 8 in the whole year. To clarify there is one facility in the SARC in Bournemouth. Previously the feasibility of further sites was explored but agreed, at that time, not to progress.</p> <p>CB raised concerns regarding officers attending court to give evidence, they often spend all day in court unable to do anything else other than wait. He felt that would be much better if they were able to give evidence remotely.</p> <p>JS updated that officers can give evidence from a different location, in the custody suites however there have been some technical issues with this equipment. Also planning a comms push with officers from January to increase their usage of the facility in custody.</p> <p>ACTION – JS to raise at police senior management team meetings as to how to maximise use of video enable equipment</p> <p>NH raised that best practice is that it becomes a default position that officers give their evidence over live links and is being done in other areas.</p> <p>MU highlighted that we have had conversations previously regarding a live link facility in Blandford, particularly to look at a multi-use facility for victims and officers, as there is a lot of time spent travelling from that part of the county to court. CB agreed that those travelling from the north and west of the county does present issues for court listings to allow enough time to travel. This needs to be scoped first and understand the demand. Future capability to hear warrant applications across a video link also needs to be considered. There is a renewed energy to improve on the poor use of the existing facility and how to exploit and develop further</p> <p>ACTION – JV, BH, SL to source short term resource to undertake a bespoke piece of work to scope developing video link facility across Dorset for both victims and officers</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>JS</p> <p>JV BH SL</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Fast Track Youth Justice <i>Detailed update on the work to improve youth timeliness through the system and future focus</i></p> <p>The Chair of the YOS Partnership Board raised concerns on the time it was taking to progress youth cases and asked for the DCJB to look further into timeliness of youth justice. The concerns raised included the time to progress youth investigations through the system, that they were taking too long and often young people are reoffending</p>	

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	<p>before their case is resolved. Initially the problem was highlighted in Poole, now appearing to be an issue in Weymouth linked to county lines and the vulnerability cohort. JP updated that in April 2019 a partnership group convened and established that there was a need for a more holistic approach to youth justice. Dorset police previously did not have deadlines to submit youth case files, this has now been rectified with a mandate that there is 14 days to make sure the young person has been interviewed or dealt with robustly. Then 28 days to put file in the system to forward to the youth team. There are dedicated Voluntary Attendance and Restorative Justice clinics and continual monitoring of youth justice cases. Specific training in this area has been provided to frontline officers. Police have noticed that youth investigation time has improved as a result of the changes put in place. There has been general improvement in the timeliness of youth submissions, and improvement at the early help stage and intervention. The picture has improved but DW stated that whilst there is improvement there is further to go as we are not at the level we want to be at yet. We need to keep monitoring this data through the DCJB performance framework. Commission of the offence to the submission of the information to the decision makers is the key area to monitor. MU asked that the officers share the details of this work with councillors in the new local authorities across Dorset.</p> <p>There was discussion about the usage of Criminal Behaviour Orders across the area.</p> <p>MU raised that at the recent Police and Crime Panel there had been discussion regarding Dorset being an outlier for first time entrants, requesting an understanding as to why and what the response is. As a Board we need to be able to satisfy as to why. If a youth caution or conditional caution is applied that counts as entering the justice system, however youth restorative disposals are informal and don't count. DW and Yvonne Surman took a paper to the YOS Board and want to progress giving young people a second restorative disposal perhaps with more weight and getting help to early access services with the local authority. There is evidence to support this approach and this would also impact on the first time entrants figure. It would seem unlikely that there are more young people offending in Dorset it is a case of trying to find a more effective outcome for low level offending. CB highlighted that feedback from the scrutiny panel for OOCB for youth cases is very good. Also noted was that the capacity of youth courts is a concern. Consideration is to be given to identifying persistent young offenders again and looking at fast-tracking those cases. EY asked how effective are the options available for diverting those from the CJS for those with learning difficulties or mental health conditions. DW confirmed that assessment is carried out and at least 80% of the young people have some sort of speech, language, communication or learning needs. ER referred to the successful diversion process in Wales.</p> <p>ACTION – Brian Duffy in Dorset Police to continue to work with David Webb understanding the evidence base of what works for interventions for young people</p>	<p>Brian Duffy</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Prison Crime Timeliness</p> <p>The Judiciary raised with JV and JJ concerns around serious offences committed in prison taking police and prosecutors so long to get to a charging decision so by the time they appear before the crown court the offenders have been released from custody reducing the sentencing powers available. This is also linked to pre-sentence reports where a</p>	

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	<p>custodial sentence possibly may not be appropriate but is a case by case situation</p> <p>NH is currently speaking to every Governor in Wessex regarding how they perceive the response to this type of offending. NH gave assurance that the CPS treat prison offences very seriously and in exactly the same way as other crime. There is also much work on-going with prison officers' engagement, in order to progress cases. NH is also working with ROCU to understand better serious and organised crime in the prison setting. There is a lot of work ongoing on crime committed in and emanating from prison. Remanding can be done but only if a charging decision has been made. Charging decisions are made within 21 days and are not prioritised if they are a serving prisoner.</p> <p>Often a concurrent rather than consecutive sentence is given which is an aggravating factor for the prison officers as victims.</p> <p>NH is working on a regional approach to support prisons with serious and organised crime.</p> <p>ACTION – NH to provide examples to CB of where Governors have raised the issue of concurrent rather than consecutive sentences being given and CB to take this back</p>	<p>NH / CB</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>Actions update and July minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held 24th July 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Actions were verbally updated and noted by JC, action list updated.</p> <p><u>Publishing DCJB minutes</u></p> <p>MU raised that, for transparency, the DCJB minutes should be open to the public. There was agreement that the minutes should be redacted and board members to see them before they are published. Two versions of the minutes will be available at the next meeting to be agreed by the DCJB and then redacted version published.</p> <p>ACTION – JM to arrange for DCJB minutes to be redacted and published on DCJB webpage</p>	<p>JM</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Agree DCJB 2020 Strategic Plan and Terms of Reference</p> <p>Discussion on the Health priority was carried forward to the January 2020 meeting when EY can be involved. This will include discussions around the Integrated Care Strategy for Dorset and how this can influence criminal justice and community safety. To be linked in to the dual diagnosis issues, those falling below the mental health thresholds and explore the use of the liaison and diversion service in Dorset.</p> <p>DCJB Plan and ToR were endorsed by the Chair and Board members. Agreed that it should probably set the Plan for 3 years with review at September 2020 Planning day to allow the new PCC Plan to be linked in</p> <p>ACTION – Health priority outstanding, to add to the agenda for next meeting</p>	<p>FS</p>

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7	Performance	
7.1	<p><u>DCJB Performance Exception Reports</u></p> <p>JC presented the performance overview and exception report and highlighted issues of note from the reports. The main dashboard is now being populated with more reoffending related data, including IOM and substance misuse and this is work ongoing.</p> <p>The following was raised from the Exceptions Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive outcomes as a proportion of all outcomes was raised as an exception. Highlighted as for the first time in three years the rate has gone below the lower boundary and showing a reducing trend. This is already in traction with the police and BH updated that detections have been lost around theft/shoplifting and some low level offences against the person. This is also a national trend and Dorset has consistently been number 10 or 11 in the country for the last three or four years and does stay there even with this reduction. This can be related to changes in out of court disposals, some cultural work is being done with officers. There is no single area to be addressed. As investment is coming back in focus there will be an emphasis on seeing a growth in performance, which will have a knock on effect to all criminal justice partners. Threat, risk and harm is the priority and this impacts on outcome rates. <p>Crown Court timeliness was raised, following the Bournemouth Echo article. One quarter's data showed a significant increase in crown court timeliness which was reported. When this data was looked at closer it was noted that this actually followed a quarter of particularly low timeliness. Ministry of Justice were the source of the data and have confirmed the accuracy, however suggested that a better way to look at the data may be to use the median figure rather than mean as this looks at the middle point as opposed to an average which can be skewed by one or two longer complex cases. Police and CPS have looked further into the data to try and understand further, there is a thought that it may be linked to the forensics issues (Eurofins). As a strategic board it was agreed that it is important not to knee jerk react to one quarter's performance so it was agreed to look at the next few quarters' worth of data to understand better the trends and whether there is an issue.</p>	
7.2	<p><u>Rape/NFA Timeliness Performance Update</u></p> <p>From the CPS perspective they are performing much closer to the Service Level Agreement for obtaining a charging decision than ever before [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>NH gave reassurance that when a charging decision is made the only consideration is the code for crown prosecutors, questions applied are "is the evidence there, can we say</p>	

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	<p>that there is a realistic prospect of conviction?" [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>There has been some misunderstanding [REDACTED] and there has never been a charging rate in Wessex or nationally. Reassurance was provided that Wessex has one of the highest charging levels in the country.</p> <p>NH noted that Wessex do a lot of scrutiny on their RASSO cases [REDACTED].</p> <p>ACTION – when outcomes are received from the national Rape inspection that Wessex are included in and the peer review, link in to outcomes from London Rape Review to bring back all outcomes to DCJB in early 2020.</p>	<p>JJ / NH</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Victim & Witness Priority</p> <p>8.1 <u>Victim and Witness Group Update</u></p> <p>Notes of the meeting which took place on 2nd October had been circulated to the attendees.</p> <p>MU referenced concerns around DA cases where the victim declines to support and was encouraged to hear that Dorset is actually better than the national average however acknowledged that we are still looking to improve these numbers.</p> <p>Victim Code of Compliance partnership work continues.</p> <p>Work looking at Victim feedback forms continues</p> <p>Regarding Restorative Justice referrals, the prison are making many referrals, however the lowest referrals are from the CRC. MU will be writing to Rosie O’Hagan to request support in driving up referrals.</p> <p>It was noted that Bournemouth Crown Court is the second busiest court in the country.</p>	
<p>9.</p> <p>9.1</p>	<p>Reducing Reoffending Priority (Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group have not met since the last DCJB, no update)</p> <p><u>Probation NPS/CRC developments</u></p> <p>TR explained that the period of transition has now commenced ahead of the bringing together of the CRC and NPS. There is a Transition Board for the South West established, with Angela Cossins chairing. People are coming together to talk about what that needs to look like in the wider strategic sense. There are a number of different strands and the new HMPPS strategy is due to be published 20.11.19. The Target Operating Model is to be published after the election. The competition for the new probation partners will be starting soon for unpaid work and interventions. Angela Cossins is leading and in 2021 they will amalgamate offender case management, earlier in Wales on 02.12.19. Emma</p>	

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<p>9.2</p> <p>9.3</p> <p>9.4</p>	<p>Richards will be leaving at the end of November to return to Wales, her replacement has not yet been appointed. TR or EM to keep the board updated in the future.</p> <p><u>Screening/ Risk Assessment for Voluntary Attendance</u></p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p><u>High Sheriff proposal for Drug/Drive pilot in Dorset</u></p> <p>Currently there is a national review being done on the Drink/Drive rehabilitation courses and within that Drug/Drive is also being looked at, which will then be published.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>The original action was then closed.</p> <p><u>Focus on the harder to reach cohort, those that are not engaging with the police</u></p> <p>BH presented a paper on knife crime at the August DCJB meeting where it was mentioned regarding the growing cohort of those that are harder to engage with. This seems to be an emerging and growing problem so the purpose of the paper is to give some context on these cases that are difficult to engage with. The graph within the paper shows the steady increase of knife crime incidents. Worryingly this group and particularly young people who not only don't trust the police but are also not engaging with hospital staff as well. The questions is how much impact can the CJS have on those that do not even get into the system as victims? What do we need to do within the criminal justice world and what needs to be pushed out to other spheres of operation to start to try and address, as appears to be more of a social issue. Nothing further was required at this stage, this provided context on what was meant by the hard to reach cohort and was noted.</p>	
<p>10</p> <p>10.1</p>	<p>CJS Efficiency Priority</p> <p><u>CJS Efficiency Board Update</u></p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting were circulated to the Board and no further matters were raised.</p>	
<p>11</p> <p>11.1</p>	<p>DCJB Comms</p> <p><u>DCJB Campaign – Modern Slavery</u></p> <p>Anti-slavery day was the 18th October, where a social media campaign was carried out across Dorset. This was raising awareness of the day, and included the modern slavery helpline, information on spotting the signs, and internal messages were completed. Interestingly there were more hits on the website than previous campaigns.</p>	

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11.2	<p><u>DCJB Awards nominations</u></p> <p>A reminder that the email has been circulated requesting partners to nominate for the annual Dorset Justice Award and are due back by Monday, 13 January 2020</p> <p>Also to note that the actual Dorset Police Award Ceremony will be held on the evening of 26 February 2020 [REDACTED]. A calendar invite will be sent out in due course, but worth holding in your diaries in the event of your specific organisation having the winning team/individual.</p>	
12	<p>Disproportionality Sub-Group Action Plan</p> <p>BH was previously leading on the work looking at the recommendations from the Lammy Report. Previously had hoped to hold a disproportionality focused conference but this changed to be hate crime and was held in October.</p> <p>SL has now taken over this area of work. The group started looking at the recommendations that came out from the report. It was agreed by many agencies that some were national issues which left more of the trust and confidence issues locally and some of this was taken into the Prejudice Free Dorset work. The conference has been the primary focus and outcomes from that are being worked through by Bournemouth University picking up again on those trust and confidence issues that are at the root of the Lammy report. This will then be fed out in a report to partners from the University. The data is the most challenging, trying to understanding if there is a disproportionality problem in Dorset. It can be evidenced through stop and search in the police but some of the other areas are difficult to pick out. This will be the focus moving forward to understand the position as the information is not easily available to be able to answer this.</p> <p>There is a list of recommendations, which now needs to be progressed however linked in with the outcomes from the conference from the University.</p> <p>ACTION - SL will get updates on the gaps in disproportionality data and whether they can be filled, also see if can re-invigorate the sub-group and bring back to the January 2020 DCJB</p>	SL
13	<p>Partners – Exception Updates/AOB</p> <p>Dorset were approached by Channel 5 to do a fly on wall documentary in custody, due to the short timescales it was not progressed. Since then it has been discussed further and Dorset Police would like to showcase the work done in the custody suite but in slow time and positively. They are considering the production company that produced ‘Call the Cops’ in Devon & Cornwall, they are very thorough and thoughtful to the sensitivities that would be required of those in custody. Dorset police want to engage with all partners and make everyone aware of what they are doing.</p> <p>MU updated that Dorset have had an 8% increase in Section 136 detentions last year, it’s going up every year across the country. 83% of people detained by the police ended up</p>	

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13.1	<p>in an appropriate health place of safety, which is really good.</p> <p>ACTION - MU to provide details of the Samaritans to JS to be able to say thank you for the service that is provided in custody</p> <p>MU and JS to consider those involved in the Samaritans partnership work for a DCJB Award nomination</p> <p>International Restorative Justice Week end of November, Dorset Police will be promoting</p> <p>Chair offered thanks to Emma Richards for her contribution to the DCJB and acknowledged that she had been a valued member of the Board</p> <p>Appropriate Adult for children in custody is about to go out to tender, will then be a Feb/ Mar 2020 start date</p> <p>Criminal Legal Aid Agency review is due to report in the summer of 2020 as there has been some delay. They will be looking at remuneration and how robustly the legal aid market can adapt to changes in court, what more can be done to more easily meet those challenges</p> <p>National CJB communications</p> <p>An update was provided, by the DCJB Business Manager, from the national Criminal Justice Board (CJB) virtual drop in session regarding the evolving framework for monitoring compliance with the Victim Code of Practice, with a request to all areas to submit their first set of data with feedback on any challenges encountered. Also a brief update on the status of the four national CJB priorities: Sexual Offences, Disclosure, Forensics and Case Progression.</p>	<p>MU</p>
14.	<p>September Meeting Theme Proposal</p> <p>It was agreed that raising public awareness, focusing on rape attrition and domestic abuse would be discussed at the January meeting. At the planning day during the breakout session this was raised where it was decided that first it needed to be agreed as a Board on how to go about it, starting with a more focused discussion as part of a DCJB theme. The aim would be to discuss what good looks like, what is the target and how do we collectively get there.</p>	
15.	<p>Next meeting (S) [FOIA Open]</p> <p>DCJB Teleconference – Wednesday 18th December 2019 9:30 – 10:00</p> <p>DCJB – 28th January – 1000 to 1300 hrs, Winfrith</p>	