

## Police and Crime Panel

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016

## Review of the Local Criminal Justice Board

## Report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

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### Purpose of report

1. To provide members of the Police and Crime Panel with a progress report on the review of the Local Criminal Justice Board carried out by the OPCVC.

### Background

2. The OPCVC has now completed the review of the LCJB and the recommendations were agreed by all board members at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The high level objectives of the LCJB will remain, though with fresh emphasis and impetus:
  - Support for victims and witnesses;
  - Delivering Justice efficiently;
  - Apprehension, punishment and rehabilitation of offenders in order to reduce reoffending.
3. In summary, discussions with Board Members and other partnership providers of Criminal Justice Services concluded that:
  - Relationships were valued within the group, but they questioned the Board's effectiveness in terms of local priority setting for the CJS;
  - There was a need for greater connectivity through the CJS between themselves, the Sub Groups and wider community partnership support across the victim, witness and offender pathways; and
  - Development is required around a more structured, meaningful and evidenced performance framework through which risks could be identified, issues highlighted and CJS partners held accountable to each other and the public.
4. The Board agreed to clarify its Sub-Group structure and to reduce duplication. It concluded that there should be Reducing Reoffending Groups and Victims and Witnesses Groups for each of Durham and Cleveland, and an Efficiency Group for the whole area. In Durham the Reducing Reoffending Group and Victims and Witnesses Group have been refreshed with revised membership, strategies and ways of working, chaired by the OPCVC and where appropriate reporting to the two Community Safety Partnerships. The Board acknowledged that this would enable us to align the work with the objectives of the LCJB and the CSPs and reduce duplication.
5. Further opportunities for development were identified within the review process, including:

- Greater connectivity between the Sub Groups and the Board as well as wider engagement with other partnership groups including the Community Safety Partnerships;
- Extension of the remit of the LCJB to develop a whole systems approach and consider the end to end impact of the CJS on vulnerable victims and witnesses;
- Development of a collaborative approach to performance monitoring;
- The potential development of the PCC role across the CJS could result in increased opportunities for localised provision and commissioning of services as well as greater scrutiny of Criminal Justice provision.

6. The Board agreed the following:

- That the coordination of the LCJB business becomes a function of the Offices of the PCC Cleveland/PCVC Durham;
- Commitment to the Board as the vehicle for development and reform within the CJS and prioritisation of the work where appropriate;
- Consideration of staffing requirements to determine potential funding arrangements;
- Approval for the mapping of existing structures to allow for formal links to be explored, agreed and implemented between the LCJB and other relevant groups/partnerships;
- Support for the development of a whole system performance framework that collects and analyses information, demonstrating the extent to which the whole local criminal justice system is:
  - Delivering justice efficiently;
  - Reducing reoffending; and
  - Supporting victims and witnesses.

## Recommendations

Members of the Police and Crime Panel are asked to:

- Note the contents of the report
- Provide any comments and / or questions for the PCVC

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Police and Crime Commissioner

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