

## Police and Crime Panel

26<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## Durham and Cleveland Local Criminal Justice Board Update



## Report of Chief of Staff

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### Purpose

1. To provide panel members with an update on the work of the Local Criminal Justice Board and how this has developed during the past year. A presentation will be provided to the Panel at the meeting, to support discussion.

### Background

2. Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJB) were established as a means of developing and sustaining the close and effective partnership working, across the CJS.
3. In October 2015 a Joint Inspection of Local Criminal Justice Partnerships was carried out by HMIC, HMCPSI and HMI.
4. The inspection conducted a survey of LCJPs across England and Wales and this was followed by inspection fieldwork in six areas (Durham and Cleveland being one).
5. The inspection concluded that there was ***'limited evidence that Local Criminal Justice Partnerships were making a positive difference.'***
6. Following this, a review was carried out in Durham and Cleveland from April to September 2016 lead by the OPCVC. This reaffirmed the findings of the inspection, that the CJS at a local level was not achieving tangible results and required focus.

### Current Position

7. Relunched the LCJP to provide proper leadership to the system and reviewed the board's membership and priority work streams.

### Membership

8. Executive membership of the Board is made up of senior level representation from Criminal Justice and key partner agencies including;
  - a. The Crown Prosecution Service
  - b. Cleveland Police
  - c. Durham Constabulary

- d. Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service
- e. National Probation Service – Cleveland
- f. National Probation Service – Durham
- g. Community Rehabilitation Company
- h. Youth Offending Services
- i. Her Majesty's Prison Service
- j. Legal Aid Agency
- k. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
- l. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham

## **Vision**

- 9. An overall vision for the board has been agreed and signed off by all members; *'County Durham, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-On-Tees are areas where people have confidence in a local criminal justice system which supports victims, rehabilitates offenders and reduces reoffending, and delivers value for money.'*
- 10. We will achieve this by taking a collaborative approach so that by 2021 we have an end-to-end local criminal justice system which operates effectively across organisational boundaries to deliver seamless services and positive outcomes for victims and people who offend, alongside effective and efficient delivery of justice.
- 11. The local criminal justice system will play a key role in keeping communities safe, supporting positive social outcomes, preventing harm and reducing demand on services, and growing the local economy.
- 12. A new staffing model and meeting structure has been established to support this, Appendix 2.

## **Key Priority Work**

- 13. Priority work streams are currently split into three areas.

### ***Efficiency and Effectiveness Group***

- 14. There is currently one E&E group across Durham and Cleveland. The E&E group will be chaired by HMCTS and made up of senior staff members from the local statutory CJ agencies.
- 15. The overall vision for the E&E group is to become *'The most efficient and integrated local criminal justice system in the country.'*
- 16. Current work streams relate to TSJ performance, BCM performance in the Crown Court, Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime.

17. The group is currently undertaking a data collection exercise in relation to two TSJ key performance indicators - guilty pleas and effective trials - to identify any patterns. This work is in its early stages.
18. As part of the review of the group's priorities, consideration is being given to ensuring membership of the E&E includes partners with knowledge of Crown Court processes and performance issues. Currently there are no national performance targets for Crown Court trials therefore the E&E group is considering whether to set local targets.
19. The group is also evaluating the value of an IDVA presence in the remand courts and establishing a subgroup to explore Hate Crime performance data, due to prosecutions remaining small although the number of recorded crimes have increased considerably over the year.

### ***Victim and Witness Group***

20. There are currently two victim and witness groups representing the two geographical areas of the partnership.
21. They are chaired by the offices of the PCC/PCVC who jointly commission the current referral service for victims. Representation from the statutory CJS services is at a senior level but there is wider membership from those organisations providing specific services to victim and witnesses, these include local authorities, Victim Care and Advice Service, Witness Service, Witness Care, as well as representation from the voluntary sector.
22. The overall vision of the VWG is to ensure *'victims and witnesses receive end to end, co-ordinated care and support that enables them to cope and recover from the experience and participate in the Criminal Justice System.'*
23. Current work streams relate to the victim experience, performance management, VPS statements and restorative justice provision.
24. The group is reviewing the support and communications with victims throughout the Criminal Justice System to better manage expectation of victims and witnesses, reduce duplication and confusion and streamline existing processes. This work is in the early stages.
25. The group continues to build on the work previously carried out in relation to VPS and attempt to address the poor quality of VPS statements across the geographical areas by training other partners who may be better placed to take a VPS statement and exploring the process for hearing them in court.
26. Work to develop a performance management framework which effectively records a victim's ability to cope and recover from their experience and satisfaction across the CJS is underway. This will support the work of the group to enable monitoring of services, comprehensive data sharing among partners and enhanced analysis to improve performance.

27. The group is also working to ensure that at any stage of a victim's journey they have access to high quality restorative justice through supporting the work carried out in Durham and Darlington and reviewing the provision in Cleveland.

### **Reducing Reoffending Group**

28. There are currently two reducing reoffending groups representing the two geographical areas of the partnership.
29. The reducing reoffending groups linked to the LCJB are made up of senior representatives from the local CJS agencies as well as wider representation from the many organisations who contribute to the offending and reoffending agenda, these include local authority children's services, alcohol and drug service commissioners, employment and training providers, anti-social behaviour teams, accommodation providers, and health – including liaison and diversion.
30. The overall vision for the RRG is that *'Across County Durham and Darlington, partners implement the most effective and efficient measures to ensure that adults and young people who offend are challenged and supported to desist from crime in order to improve life chances and keep communities safe.'*
31. The group has oversight of services for prolific offenders and out of court delivery streams.
32. Current work streams relate to performance, employment, desistance pathways and developing a whole system approach to female offending.
33. The group is developing a greater understand of pathways into employment for those who have offended through a local online consultation exercise that has been launched across both geographical areas to gain greater understanding of employers attitudes.
34. Work is also being carried out in relation to female offending with the intention being to develop a joined-up, multi-agency approach to improve support for female offenders and other women with complex needs who may be at risk of offending. The focus is on utilising existing resources differently to target support more effectively, avoiding gaps or duplication in service provision.
35. Currently work to develop a performance framework to manage reoffending performance across the system, and identify critical issues in a timely fashion, is underway. This will build on the existing performance frameworks and develop new measures where necessary including a local measure for reoffending (in place of the national binary measure which is two years out of date). This will support the work of the group to enable monitoring of services, comprehensive data sharing among partners and enhanced analysis to improve performance.

## **Recommendation**

36. The Police and Crime Panel is recommended to:
- a. Note the progress of the work and ask any questions;
  - b. Suggest potential ways in which the Panel could provide support;
  - c. Ask for a further report as appropriate.

**Alan Reiss**  
Chief of Staff

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**Appendix 1: Risks and Implications**

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**Finance**

All decisions with financial implications are made with value for money as a key consideration, and are affordable within budgets.

**Staffing**

The budgetary implications for staffing are dealt within the OPCVC. Staff numbers are budgeted to be broadly static during 2017/18.

**Equality and Diversity**

n/a

**Accommodation**

n/a

**Crime and Disorder**

The work of the LCJB relates directly to reducing reoffending, victims and witnesses and successful prosecutions.

**Children's Act 2004**

n/a

**Stakeholder/Community Engagement**

A review of the local criminal justice board was conducted which included direct feedback from partners.

**Environment**

n/a

**Collaboration and Partnerships**

The work of the LCJB focuses on collaboration and partnerships to ensure an effective CJ system that meets the needs of victims, witnesses and successfully rehabilitates offenders.

**Value for Money and Productivity**

n/a

**Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

The work of the LCJB will impact directly or indirectly on the pursuit of Police and Crime Plan priorities.

**Commissioning**

Some decisions may relate to commissioning of services.

**Other risks**

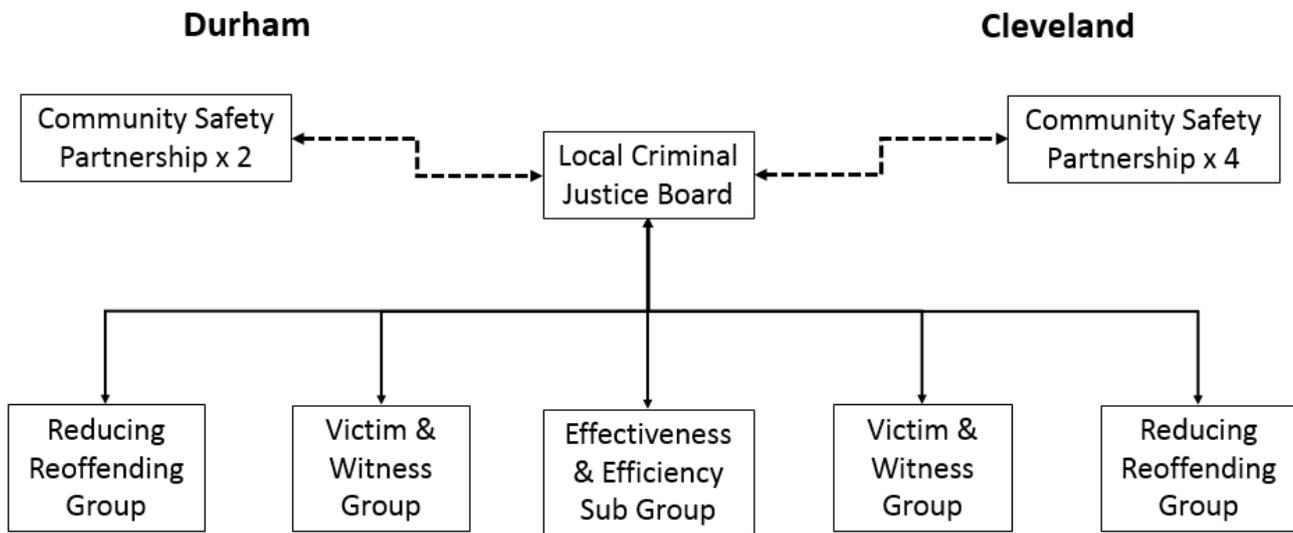
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**Appendix 2: Meeting Structure and Staffing Model**


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**Staffing**


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