

March 2018

Welcome to the first ever Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) newsletter for partners within the LCJB



West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Burns-Williamson, is the Chair of the LCJB, and said that the aim was around better joint working and collaborating around ideas with all partners.

He said: "Welcome to the LCJB's first ever newsletter and I look forward to working together and ensuring the communication of all partners is featured within this newsletter to ensure all of those people employed by LCJB members are being kept informed of good joint working.

"We are looking at how the LCJB can improve confidence and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice system as a whole and then to structure my role around what more we need to do as PCCs in the sphere of Criminal Justice.

"It's about bringing more co-ordination and transparency to the relationship between all LCJB members including Probation, Community Rehabilitation Companies, the Courts, and the Crown Prosecution Service, and to see how we can collaborate.

"We want to develop more opportunities to work together and there are exciting times ahead with the Digital Transformation Programme, a Strategy being developed around Preventing Reoffending and looking at opportunities around joint working with our partners within the Criminal Justice system.

"The Criminal Justice system have had court closures and there may be changes in the future and all these issues are interrelated and I see my role as trying to oversee some co-ordination and collaboration of that landscape."

Background on the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)

The LCJB was established in 2003 to provide a structure for strategic leaders to meet, discuss and agree measures to improve the Criminal Justice System for the public.

It is a voluntary coalition of the criminal justice agencies, Chief Officers and partners.

Executive Board members represent West Yorkshire Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service, National Prison and Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, Legal Aid Agency, Youth Offending Service, Victim Support, Witness Service and The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Executive Board is chaired by Mr Burns-Williamson and the Deputy Chair is Gerry Wareham, Chief Crown Prosecutor for Yorkshire and the Humber.

Its strategic priorities are

- Improve outcomes for victims and witnesses
- Improve efficiencies
- Work better together
- Reduce reoffending

Also under the LCJB umbrella:

- **The Prosecution Team Performance Management Group**, chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police, whose aim is to deliver a criminal justice system that is flexible, efficient and effective
- **The Victim and Witness Group**, chaired by the Head of Delivery at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, whose aim is to continually improve the experience of victims and witnesses in the criminal justice system and improve confidence in the system within the wider public arena

Update from the Crown Prosecution Service

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is the main prosecuting authority in England and Wales working with all agencies in the criminal justice system, liaising closely with the police, although independent from them.

The CPS has 14 operating Areas across England and Wales. CPS Yorkshire and Humberside is one of the largest CPS Areas outside London, serving a population of over five million including West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, East Yorkshire, the Humber, and North East Lincolnshire.

CPS Yorkshire and Humberside is led by Chief Crown Prosecutor Gerry Wareham, supported by Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor Barbara Petchey, who has responsibility for Crown Court cases.

There is Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor Chris Hartley, who has responsibility for Magistrates' Court cases, and Elizabeth Jenkins, who leads the Complex Casework Unit, the Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Unit, and a team of Crown Advocates.

Ian Brown is Area Business Manager with responsibility for business and operational delivery functions across the region.

We employ over 450 people including lawyers, paralegals, administrators and specialist staff. We have offices in Leeds, Hull and Sheffield and every year prosecute thousands of criminal cases in Magistrates' Courts and Crown Courts across the region.

The roll out of 5 day Digital Charging in West Yorkshire

Digital Charging is where the police seek a charging decision from the CPS by sending the information digitally and receiving a decision digitally within 5 days. This is used for cases where the decision is not urgent and allows the CPS to more effectively manage their work load. It also removed the need for officers to wait for extended periods on the phone whilst decisions are being made. The "Go-live" date for 5 day digital charging in West Yorkshire was 15 January 2018.

Numbers of cases referred by the police have rapidly increased:

	Magistrates Court Team	Crown Court Team
Week 1	10	5
Week 2	30	17
Week 3	45	19
Week 4	56	30
Total Cases	141	71

Rejection rates by the CPS admin triage have been significantly less than other comparable forces.

Magistrates Court Team: rejection rate - 24.1%.

Crown Court Team: rejection rate - 35.2%.

Charges rates:

Magistrates Court Team: of the cases advised on 68.29% were charged (21.95% were NFA and 9.75% were action plan).

Crown Court Team: of the cases advised on 63.63% were charged (18.18% were NFA and 18.18% were action plan).

CPS timelines:

As at 7.2.18 both the Magistrates Court Team and the Crown Court Team had 4 overdue "5 day" digital charging cases. The number of days overdue in both Teams was small and in the region of 1 to 3 days.

Update from the West Yorkshire Youth Offending Teams

Resettlement Consortium secure Nuffield Research Funding

The South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium through its' academic partners, The University of Bedfordshire – Institute of Applied Social Research, are pleased to announce that a bid for £180,000 for research into the life trajectories of young people in care who serve time in custody has been agreed. The money will come from the Nuffield Foundation and will involve a significant piece of research and we are looking forward to working closely with them.

Moving to a West Yorkshire Appropriate Adult Service

Local Authorities in West Yorkshire, the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Yorkshire Police, working with the other Youth Offending Teams, have developed a service specification to provide the best possible service for those in need of

support from an Appropriate Adult. National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN) in moving forward. The important role played by volunteers was identified during the specification and procurement process, with support from the National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN). The contract has been awarded to The Appropriate Adult Service (TAAS) Ltd. (www.theappropriateadultservice.org.uk). They are the largest single provider of Appropriate Adult Services across the country and undertake work on behalf of YOS teams, Police, Social Service Departments, Department of Work and Pensions and RSPCA. They will provide an Appropriate Adult Service using volunteers to support children and vulnerable adults in West Yorkshire. The contract should start by 1 April.

Wetherby YOI Psychology and Interventions Event – Friday 1st December, 2017

This event, attended by staff from youth Offending Teams (YOTs) in West and South Yorkshire and Manchester sought to raise awareness and understanding of the interventions available as well as a useful overview on effective interventions and potential outcomes

It followed the Psychology and Programmes events held in November 2016 and June, 2017 and it emphasised that anyone can identify a need and ask whether a young person is being considered for interventions.

Referrals can be made via 'casework' during sentence planning meetings or sequencing meetings. Evidence of previous behaviour from YOTs is useful to advise the process. It was useful to hear that 'A>Z' aims to build a young person's motivation to engage (or re-engage) and set goals prior to specific interventions.

Stepwise – A New Venture by the Street Doctors at Wetherby YOI.

Young men who are currently serving sentences in Wetherby YOI may be eligible for referral to the Stepwise Project. The project has been developed in partnership with Street Doctors - who many YOTs will know from their great work across the region. Phase 1 will consist of five consecutive weekend sessions to train participants in administering first aid whilst imparting knowledge around the dangers of knife crime. Those selected to continue to Phase 2 will have the benefit of a full day 'train the trainers' course and then the opportunity to co-deliver in the community through Release On Temporary Licence.

Update from Victim Support

Victim Support (VS) is the independent charity for people affected by crime in England and Wales. Our specialist teams provide individual, independent, emotional and practical help to enable people to cope and recover from the effects of crime.

Our services are free and available to everyone, whether or not the crime has been reported to the Police and regardless of when it happened.

Victim Support in West Yorkshire have been successful in their tender for the PCC funded West Yorkshire Victim Assessment, Referral and Support service which will run from 26th March 2018 for a 3 year term, with the option to extend for a further 2 years. The service now includes direct support to Children and Young People and incorporates all crime types. Support can be provided over the telephone, through our live chat facility or face to face from one of the 5 Victims Hubs in Bradford, Calderdale, Leeds, Kirklees and Wakefield. Support can be provided in victims homes, where applicable.



Together, we help people feel safer and find the strength to move forward after crime.

Update from the Prisons

We have 5 Prisons in the Region who between them now hold the vast majority of West Yorkshire Offenders that are in Custody. This has been a Prison Service strategy to hold offenders closer to home for a number of years supporting resettlement, visits, and particularly important with the introduction of the Community Rehabilitation Companies. In the Region we have HMP New Hall ((Female Offenders); HMPs Leeds and Wealstun; HMYOI Wetherby (15 -17 yrs. old males) HMP Wakefield (High Security). From a personnel point of view the Prisons in our Region are undergoing a significant recruitment drive for Prison officers to support implementing a new resettlement and rehabilitative culture model and meet staffing levels generally. This is a demanding time with great change and challenge that we are fully able to meet.

We have been working closely with the rest of the CJ System to implement the Ministry Of Justice strategic plan and Prison reforms. This with increased court video links at HMP Leeds for example. Though the Prison population is high and increasingly short term we work hard to deliver rehabilitation to individuals whenever possible and also increase our

engagement with those in the Community that have a part to play. The reoffending rate for Prisoners released from Custody is high at over 70% for young men, 67% for short term offenders from New Hall and 65% for short term male offenders. Many female offenders have been victims of domestic and sexual abuse with this proven to contribute to offending. We work closely with partners to provide support for this trauma. The need to provide qualifications and training for work for those in custody has led to innovative partnerships. Whilst getting a job is not usually on its own enough to prevent further reoffending it can go a long way to help when alongside other services. HMP Leeds has developed specific training to meet the high need in the Asian restaurant market. Whilst Q Hotels partnered with our Education provider NOVUS and HMP Wealstun to launch a new hospitality and catering training academy at the Prison. The Prison now provides a venue for partner agencies to hold meetings and conferences giving trainees real practice and training to gain industry standard qualifications.

Update from the National Probation Service

Leeds Magistrates and Leeds Crown courts are the largest courts in the North East Division of the National Probation Service. They service the Leeds and Wakefield areas and the Crown court also takes committals from Kirklees Magistrates court. The two courts allocate between 450 and 500 sentences to the National Probation Service or the Community Rehabilitation Companies, depending on the risk of harm the defendants pose.

Staff at Leeds Magistrates also prosecute all breaches of Orders and licences on behalf of both the NPS and the CRC.

As well as allocating cases and prosecuting breaches in the Magistrates, the major role of Probation court teams is to provide information, risk assessments and proposals to Sentencers in the form of Pre Sentence Reports.

In order to support the court efficiency projects, the teams are now producing more “on the day” reports than ever before. In Magistrates over 80 % of reports are delivered in this way and in the Crown court over 50%. The key to the team’s success is effective multi agency working. We work closely with Liaison and Diversion staff and court Probation officers contribute to the daily domestic violence and abuse multi agency meeting.



Update from the Courts

WHAT IS DIGITAL MARK UP (DMU)? – REPORT FROM THE HMCTS N&W YORKSHIRE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Digital Mark Up is an in-court resulting tool for Legal Advisers and Court Associates in the Magistrates’ Court for all criminal cases. Non-criminal matters continue to be resulted by the administrative staff.

The service is an end-to-end digital process which records and transmits the results of the judicial decision makers in Magistrates’ Courts to the current case management system (Libra). The DMU screens have been designed by users for users with the aim to deliver an intuitive and comprehensive resulting solution which feeds directly into Libra. This removes the need to re-enter information by the administration which will reduce errors due to misinterpretation and missing results and provide more timely and accurate results for dissemination to third parties, in particular to update the Police National Computer.

Obviously, this is a huge change and continues to have a large impact within the courtroom environment. Legal Advisers / Court Associates need the “golden 5 minutes” after a case has been concluded to enter the details onto DMU. The Ushers have become the “Guardians of the Courtroom” and whilst legal are entering information on DMU they continue to liaise with the other agencies within the courtroom to ensure cases are ready to proceed and professionalism is maintained.

There continues to be issues with results which hadn't been experienced previously on the Learning Platform and we still have questions, which is inevitable when dealing with a new way of working. The knowledge of experienced resulting staff working alongside Legal Advisers and Courts Associates is invaluable.

All hints and tips and unusual scenarios are collated and shared both locally and with the National Implementation team through a Cluster designed Newsletter the items are intended to be of assistance to all our colleagues.

A daily joint TIB (Team Information Board) has also been a very useful tool in reviewing successes and sharing information with everyone and weekly Cluster call conferencing has provided support and a forum to discuss issues and share success within the Cluster. Everyone gets involved in the daily TIB meetings Legal, Admin and Ushers, it’s a great way of sharing information and talking through any issues that we come across in real time. We are constantly streamlining systems to make the flow of work through the office seamless.

What impact has DMU had? ITS HUGE but we are getting there, everything is heading in the right direction an emerging picture of success from working together. Improving the timeliness and accuracy of the provision of information to other agencies is the ultimate aim of the system.

In November and December 2017 West Yorkshire conducted a trial blitz. This blitz was a huge success which saw 325 trials dealt with. Of these trials only 2% of them were ineffective which was an excellent result.

Also over the last 3 months we have seen the court electronic equipment undergoing a “tech-refresh” where old computer systems and equipment have been updated and modernised meaning Legal Advisers and Court Associates are using the same modern equipment across the whole of West Yorkshire.

Finally the Crown Court at Leeds has been utilising all of its court rooms recently and to avoid any backlogs of work agreement has been reached that they will start using Court 4 at Leeds Magistrates’ Court. This has amounted to 60 additional sitting days between January and March 2018.

For more information on any of these stories get in touch Colin McMahon on lcjb@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk.