

# BEDFORDSHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD

**Date:** Monday 15 October 2024

**Venue:** Bedfordshire Police HQ / Hybrid Meeting

PRESENT	ORGANISATION (in-person/on-line)
John Tizard (JT)	Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Alan Pooley (AP)	Judiciary (on-line)
Charlotte Ball (CB)	Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire & Milton Keynes Public Health (in-person)
Ciara Mole (CM)	Beds Drug & Alcohol Coordinator (in-person)
Dave Collins (DCS)	Luton YoT (on-line)
Francoise Julian (FJ)	BCJB Business Manager (in-prson)
Ian Murray (IM)	HMCTS Crown Court (on-line)
Jessica Hart (JH)	CPS, Representing Lisa Ramsarran (on-line)
John Murphy (JM)	Bedfordshire Police (in-person)
Kate Somarakis	HMCTS Magistrates Court (on-line)
Kerry White (KW)	HMCTS Crown Court (on-line)
Lara Lewis (LL)	PCC Staff Officer (Minute Taker) (in-person)
Layla Allen (LA)	Citizens Advice Bureau (on-line)
Lisa Jenkins (LJ)	Head of Probation (in-person)
Nicola Bayliss (NB)	Bedfordshire OPCC Restorative Justice (on-line)
Pat Jennings (PJ)	Bedfordshire YoT (on-line)
Sarah-Louise Bott (SLB)	HMP Bedford (on-line)
Stuart Firth (SF)	HMP Bedford (in-person)
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Lisa Ramsarran, Represented by Jessica Hart</li> <li>– Sarah Pacey, Public Health Luton</li> <li>– Jolene Jefferson, Public Health Luton</li> </ul>

Item No.	Topic
1.	<b>Welcome, Introduction and Apologies:</b>

	<p><b>Joining the Board for the first time:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Lisa Jenkins, Head of Probation</li> <li>– Ciara Mole, Combating Drugs Partnership Coordinator, Bedfordshire</li> </ul> <p><b>Apologies received from:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Craig Austen, Bedford Housing</li> <li>– Sarah Pacey, Public Health Luton</li> <li>– Lisa Ramsarran, Crown Prosecution Services (represented by Jessica Hart) and apologies from the OPCC for late invitation</li> <li>– Peter Burt,</li> <li>– Simon Hardcastle, BLMK Integrated Care</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting, BCJB Work Programme, Actions and Risk Logs*</b></p> <p>Minutes from the previous meeting; 15 July 2024, agreed as accurate.</p>
3.	<p><b>Action item 24/25-08: Update following launch of this service on 6 August 2024</b></p> <p><b>HMP Bedford Assertive Outreach Service Update - SF highlighted:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Now have one full time officer and a bespoke multidisciplinary service that has been live for about 2 months</li> <li>– Psychologist in post</li> <li>– Awaiting a mental health nurse</li> <li>– Reduction in violence already showing</li> <li>– Risk – need admin support for a Teams referral service</li> <li>– Risk - difficult to find safe spaces in prisons to hold consultations</li> <li>– Looking to continue the service for the prison leavers out in the community. Can we use partner spaces e.g. at police venues to hold interventions?</li> </ul> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed that project was supported and would be referred to MAPPA.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> SF to present the HMP Bedford Assertive Outreach Programme to the Bedfordshire MAPPA.</p>
4.	<p><b>CJS Performance/Scrutiny* - BCJB Workstreams Highlight Reports</b></p> <p>Reporting by exception on work being progressed by the BCJB Workstreams and areas of risk/concern.</p> <p><b>ZB presented report on Victims &amp; Witnesses - ZB highlighted:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Meeting with Herts and Essex force leads to understand impact of the pilot they have run</li> <li>– Shaping our own strategy, developing a dashboard around VCOP 12 rights</li> </ul>

- Force Victims Board now in place looking at victim feedback and areas for development. Scrutiny panels in place for victims across MVAWG, RASSO and OOCB
- Victim and Witness Engagement Board looks at broader partnership working

**Action:** Will have a new governance in place by 21 November. ZB to share presentation to share with PCC.

Following discussion, the dashboard was supported, and it was agreed that governance arrangements should fit with the mission board for victims.

***FJ presented report on Performance and Programme Management - FJ highlighted:***

- New data sharing agreements finalised by the APCC between OPCC's, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and refreshed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); Granting OPCCs access to important data tools, to help PCC's develop and deliver their Police and Crime Plan, Regional Reducing Reoffending Plan, and Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) Priorities.
- This data can support improving accountability against measures which could in turn improve court performance, timeliness, better resource efficiency, and so contribute to the overall effectiveness of the criminal justice system in the area.
- Use of the data could also inform the co-commissioning activity to better address rehabilitation and resettlement needs specific to your area.

**Action:** FJ to report back on progress regarding processing this new data and initial findings

***FJ presented report on Reducing Reoffending - FJ highlighted:***

A small cohort of the Reducing Reoffending Board, met to look at progress on the work relating to the Transitions Workstream and to agree the way forward for the Reducing Reoffending subgroup. The following was discussed and agreed;

- Reducing Reoffending Subgroup – Will return to its previous format, working with the agreed Strategy and Priorities.
- Transitions - Looking at support for young adults (18+) year olds, transitioning from Youth Offending to Probation or into the Community.
  - Probation Young Adult Support Workers (YASW) primarily work with the IOM cohort
  - Bedford/Central YoT have a Probation YASW embedded, Luton waiting allocation
  - Work ongoing with both YoTs and Probation to source a transition worker with the right skill set to bridge both services.

- Pan Bedfordshire Drug and Alcohol Criminal Justice Pathways Group
  - Established and previously chaired by Charlotte Ball, Public Health Bedford/Central. The work of chairing this group has now been formally handed over to Ciara Mole, Bedfordshire Combating Drugs Partnership Co-Ordinator.
- Women in the Criminal Justice System – Part of the Board’s ongoing work programme, being progressed by Bedfordshire Police and the OPCC.
  - Outline business case prepared and submitted to the NPCC for potential Star funding for a diversion worker, to triage perpetrators from the CJS where they have been identified as offending as a result of being victims of domestic abuse or exploitation.
- Action Item 24/25-07 Support for Prison Leavers – Task group consisting of colleagues from Public Health, Housing, Prison and Probation met on 10 September 2024.
- Group to explore the potential for an information booklet for prison leavers;
  - HMP Bedford/Probation to provide templates of the crib sheets given to prison leavers
  - HMP Bedford to undertake a prison survey to capture the voice of the service user
- Meeting arranged with Housing (Bedford, Central and Luton), Probation and colleagues from the HMPPS to look at;
  - A Bedfordshire Housing Protocol
  - A Bedfordshire Housing Navigator in line with the Ipswich Navigator model
- Public Health Bedford/Central and Luton currently working on a Pan Bedfordshire MoU with Prison Healthcare for drug and alcohol support for prison leavers, the final product to be presented to the Criminal Justice Board once signed off.
- Reducing Reoffending subgroup/partnership, are currently supporting HMP Bedford through the Drug and Alcohol Workstream with:
  - Pathways for Prison leavers and the prison’s assertive outreach programme
  - Exploring implementation of amnesty bins within HMP Bedford to reduce offending and the risk of serious harm within the prison, support rehabilitation and reinforce the messages in their respective communities that serious violence is not acceptable in society.
  - HMP Peterborough will now be taking prisoners from Luton; A contact has been identified, who will join HMP Bedford and

BCJB colleagues, looking at reducing reoffending amongst prison leavers.

**BCJB To Note and/or Action:**

SDS40 Risks

- Additional pressures of SDS40 on probation: Impact on general prison leavers, staff, caseloads and recovery plan.
- Focus on SDS40 highlighting the risk to individuals on general release not getting support. e.g., Many released without accommodation needs being met.
- Individuals having access to suitable accommodation i.e., risks not only relating to housing provisions but also ensuring that the accommodation is fit for purpose e.g., placing addicts with individuals convicted of drug dealing has caused some to make themselves homeless in order to remain drug free following release.
- Individuals having access to pharmacies on release

**Chair's Out of Court disposals report - ZB highlighted:**

The Report was noted. Police responded to highlight that all out of court disposal outcomes are closely scrutinised; It was agreed that in future reports these reports will be written jointly with the Police and Out of Court Disposals Chair for context.

**Action:** ZB to meet with OoCD Chair to discuss and draft future BCJB reports.

**Action:** Agenda item to review governance arrangements for this board.

**5. Theme:\* Whole Systems Approach**

**PCC presented Bedfordshire Police and Crime Plan - PCC highlighted:**

- Theme of social justice – whole system change
- Collaboration needed
- 6 missions. One of which is excellence in the criminal justice system
- Over the next six months we are looking to:
  - Focus the LCJB on problem solving, and putting victims at the heart of the system
  - Agree shared objectives for improving criminal justice across the county within the current regulatory and resource constraints
  - Identify proposals to put to government to improve outcomes through regulatory and funding changes
  - Work with partners to review the specialist services in place to support victims of serious sexual offences and domestic abuse

**2025 – 2028 will:**

- Develop a ten-year strategy for criminal justice through the LCJB

- Adopt a cross-system plan for alternative methods of disposal.

Following discussion, the Plan was supported and it was agreed that a development day would be held to help align CJB to police and crime plan mission

**Action:** FJ/PCC to set up development day.

***JM presented report on Continuity of Care and Support for Prison Leavers – SDS40 Gold Group - JM highlighted:***

- Tranche 1 - some of the concern we had about volume of release has not materialised. At last count we had no crimes attributable to those released
- Tranche 2 - due imminently and we were expecting around 20 but those who do not fall into violent sex offenders which leaves mostly PWITS etc and could be an issue for those related to gangs etc. Victims being assessed and what additional measures needed.
- Gold group now stood down as content with partnership arrangements and all checks completed
- Now working as BAU – more to be released on 22.10 then release to occur at 40% of sentence

Following discussion, the report was supported and the need for shaping public understanding was noted as well as the risk of extra workload for local youth offending teams

***CB presented report on key updates on Pan Bedfordshire Drug and Alcohol Criminal Justice Pathways Group - CB highlighted:***

- Continuity of Care Self-assessment audit has been completed. To address the areas for development, an MOU between prison and community treatment providers is being developed by the end of Q3.
- This includes ensuring that the pathways take account of people leaving custody with drug and alcohol treatment and continuing care in community. Looking at governance and data management and attrition.
- Ensuring that when someone is released, they have prescriptions in place etc.
- In Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire, a new drug and alcohol post has been funded through the SSMTRG to be co located with the Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service.

Following discussion, the report was supported, and it was agreed that ELFT and CGL (drug and alcohol treatment providers) should be invited to operational meetings for SCS40 as safeguarding victim liaison.

***LJ presented Probation Action Plan Update to include impact of SDS40 on Staff workloads, responding to HMIP - Inspection of Probation Services in Bedfordshire - LJ highlighted:***

- LJ new in role

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspection rated as requires improvement. 3 areas were inadequate.</li> <li>- Low scores for 'risk of harm' - how we are obtaining info from agencies and individuals and how we will manage them.</li> <li>- Bedfordshire not out of line with rest of the country</li> <li>- Staffing gaps are significantly challenging</li> <li>- Qualified officers are managing 170% of case load</li> <li>- Exceptional delivery model in place until February</li> <li>- 10 officers set to qualify in December and some recruitment underway</li> <li>- A lot of work to do around culture, diversity and inclusion</li> <li>- Looking to continue strengthening partnership working</li> <li>- New structure in place</li> </ul> <p>Following discussion around how partners can support, the report was supported, and Chair noted 'big repair job needed'. SF offered to share learning from previous HMP Bedford inspection report.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> SF to share learning with LJ.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New PCCO CEO</li> <li>- Reduction in sitting days for Crown Courts</li> <li>- Report due on court backlog to be provided when data cleansing of software complete</li> <li>- HMP Peterborough to begin servicing all Luton courts</li> </ul>