

Criminal Justice Effectiveness Board

Tuesday 15th November 2022 – 10am – 12pm

Present

Assistant Commissioner Matt Twist, MPS (Chair)

A/Deputy Assistant Commissioner, MPS

Head of Met Prosecutions

Researcher, BTP

Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS North

Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor

District Crown Prosecution, CPS

HMPPS – Probation

London Crown Court, HMCTS

London Magistrates Court, HMCTS

Superintendent, City of London Police

HMPPS - Prisons

Youth Justice Board

MOPAC

Police Constable, LCJB Support Team, MPS

Police Constable, LCJB Support Team, MPS

Agenda Item 1: Introductions and Apologies

Introductions and welcome from new Chair AC Matt Twist.

Minutes and actions

Actions recorded separately on the action tracker.

Minutes August 2022 – Read and accurate reflection.

Agenda Item 2a : Performance Overview inc. Q2 21/22 JOIM dashboard

Following the presentation of the data, The Board discussed the below issues:

Improving quality of justice –

Drop in successful outcomes last month – why? Finalisation reasons – recognise there are some concerns around E72 and these are being investigated through a dip sample. Findings will be used to discuss positive action / processes within the CPS to seek to improve outcomes. This is both

within Mags and Crown Court. Processes already being looked at in the MPS looking at file quality, investigations and personal performance. There are a number of areas that need addressing and these are being looked into by Senior Leaders.

London has a high effective trial rate and lowest crack trial rate of all CPS areas. The discontinuance rate is high and above other CPS areas. (Police charge being stopped at first hearing due to lack of evidence). London also has the lowest conviction rate.

Improving Timeliness –

Assessed file compliance (DGA) shows that MPS is lowest against our comparable Force areas. A key reason is attributed to evidence missing in the form of statements (unsigned, not submitted, evidence not in statement). CPS can provide data broken down to BCU levels to hold SLT to account for the DG compliance in their areas. CMT do attend meetings with CPS to reconcile the data but in the main they agree with the CPS decisions around compliance. Escalations have declined / improved but no improvement in file quality and this sits with frontline officers.

Court Backlogs –

Pre-pandemic there were Court backlogs but over the last 3 years these have increased significantly and it is now an enormous challenge to reduce them. Magistrates is in a better position. Difficulty where defendants elect for trial in Crown when Either Way offence. Can only send back to Mags with consent of defendant. Further increase expected from the 'Just Stop Oil' but combined response with CPS has proved effective. Introduction of CONNECT may have an impact as officers learn the system but there are contingencies in place to ensure the continued smooth running of the CJS System.

Agenda Item 2b: High Level Dashboard

DPCC is keen to develop a reporting tool that will go from the CJS Effectiveness to feed into the LCJB. There is a lot of data but must look at efficiency and effectiveness to make best use of available capacity and capability. Need to change the dynamic as currently putting more in with getting less out. Number of CC hearings averages 5.8 per case.

Four key high-level themes that also mirrors the Outcomes framework. It requires a collective view to identify strategic areas to improve efficient with an improved outcome for suspects and victims.

Agenda Item 3: Outcomes Framework

Each of the 5 Boards under the LCJB will have an outcome framework; which will be used as a strategic work plan. This will work in cohesion with the other 5 boards.

Draft framework has been drafted and now requires sign off by the Board. It has been asked that there is a disproportionality outcome on each Board but it is important to identify what the Board would like to achieve with that outcome. It needs to be precise and focused in order to make sure we address the root cause of the problem. There is a pre-charge disproportionality working group chaired by A/DAC John that could feed into this outcome and bring in the focus required.

When looking at disproportionality in the CJS we need to ensure that comparisons are made using similar factors / trends to ensure that accurate data can be analysed. Query around measures for children – there is an outcome around keeping children supported / safe in the CJS.

Agenda Item 4: CJS Recovery Plan

Workshop took place last week with key strategic partners, with a further one scheduled for early December. Objectives agreed for next LCJB.

Key work streams currently taking place to reduce the backlog.

- Sentencing initiative at Snaresbrook (reduction) broadening remote sentencing remains under discussion
- Appeals Blitz at Jurys Inn (Nightingale Court) (reduction)
- Installation of remote court rooms at Snaresbrook / Isleworth – scoping work for court buildings but there is a capacity issue.
- Judicial resources
 - Relaunching Judges into London scheme
 - DJ Mags Court into Crown Court
 - Vacancies being advertised in Southwark
- Winchester Court – Kingston / Isleworth hearings moved where appropriate
- Nightingale Courts allow for 142 Court Rooms. Sufficient rooms but not resourcing to fill them.
- Southwark Nightingale – this location is going to close due to end of lease. Multiple factors for closure include – not sitting to capacity in main building, not cost effective as high lease, difficulty around Judicial resources, looking at virtual courts in main building which provides greater flexibility.
- POC - Remote sentencing in Swansea (and maybe Bristol) as capacity available.
- Reviewing how many cases still in system – Harrow CC as a case study.
- Lack of court staff / clerks etc. – recruitment drive taking place.

HMCTS could schedule more cases with availability of court rooms but this impacts on whole CJS – Police, CPS, Judiciary, Probation etc. and this needs to be taken into account when driving down the Court backlog. Board members asked about how victims are taken into consideration when allocating court hearings. Advised there is a listings process that uses various factors to prioritise / list hearings including age of case (anything 2 years old), Custody Time Limit, vulnerable and intimidated witnesses. Remote sentencing in Swansea – appears to have worked well. Currently being evaluated but if concept works then should look to utilise immediately and expand from just Snaresbrook, to other courts in London.

Agenda Item 5: Digital Updates

Common Platform

Thank you for HMCTS for supporting them during the Bar Strike as it allowed for the courts to continue running despite reduced resourcing. National Roll Out in London has been delayed; but want to ensure it does not interfere with introduction of Connect in the MPS. MPS concerns around

resulting to PNC functionality needs to be resolved before implementation and this awaits Board sign off. Expected around February 2023 but needs to be aware that Drop 2 of Connect goes live then also. Decision has not been taken lightly to delay but important that it is fit-for-purpose and ready to use before rolled out across London.

CONNECT

System goes live on 29th November 2022 (2 weeks today) for Case File, Custody and Property. Continued joint work with CPS pre go-live has taken place and new discussions with HMCTS to all agencies are kept updated on development. 24/7 cover in the first week at Petty France with MPS, CPS and HMCTS to provide support to those getting overnight files to Court. There are contingencies in place if required.

Agenda Item 6: Agenda Setting & TOR

Agenda Item 7: Matters to raise to LCJB

Next LCJB focuses on the CJ Effectiveness Board – Efficiency and Back Logs being key discussion points and require a common narrative. Proposals around what will make a difference to CJ?

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business

No AOB raised

Next meeting Thursday 16th February 0900 - 1100 hours