

London Crime Reduction Board

8 July 2020

Record of Meeting

Present

Board and advisors

Sadiq Khan	Mayor of London, Chair
Sophie Linden	Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
Debbie Weekes-Bernard	Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility
Sir Stephen House	Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service
Diana Luchford	CEO, MOPAC
Paul Wylie	Director MOPAC
Will Balakrishnan	Director MOPAC
Lib Peck	VRU
Claire Waxman	London Victims Commissioner
John O'Brien	London Councils
Carolyn Downs	London Councils
Gareth Roberts	London Councils
Peter John	London Councils
Rachael Robathan	London Councils
Danny Thorpe	London Councils
Doug Flight	London Councils
Sarah Coccia	HMPPS
Colin Allars	Youth Justice Board
Damien McCleave	HMCTS
Stephen McAllister	HMCTS (Guest)
Claire Lindley	Crown Prosecution Service
Barry Hughes	Crown Prosecution Service
Phil Douglas	Ministry of Justice
Joan Smith	VAWG Board
Sinead Dervin	NHS England
Kilvinder Vigurs	NPS
Katie Morgan	MTC Group
Nick Bowes	Mayor of London's Private Office
Tom Burnham	MOPAC
Ruth Bloomfield	MOPAC
James Bottomley	MOPAC
Andy Davis	MOPAC
Tony Hawker	MOPAC

Agenda Item 1: Notes of the last meeting and Actions

The Board notes of 14 January 2020 were agreed. There were no outstanding actions.

Agenda Item 2: Disproportionality and Race Equality in the Criminal Justice System

Disproportionality, long recognised as a major issue, has been an LCRB standing item since 2019. The Board heard an update by the MPS Deputy Commissioner on disproportionality both as a policing issue and as an internal staffing one. Around 19% of MPS staff are BAME and there was an ambition to proportionately increase this. Interactions with the public such as stop and search and oversight should be transparent and any concerns investigated.

It was agreed that disproportionality was a wider societal issue and criminal justice and NHS members discussed this from their own perspectives. The Board was updated on the Mayor's Action Plan. The aim of this City Hall initiative, involving MOPAC, the Greater London Authority, the Violence Reduction Unit and the MPS, was to increase cultural competence and representation within the MPS, consider new mayoral scrutiny mechanisms and strengthen citizen scrutiny of the MPS at the local level. Consultation with local communities was essential to this.

Agenda Item 3: Covid 19 Recovery and Court Backlogs

HMCTS, gave an update on the impact of Covid on the courts, both Crown and Magistrates, and discussed recovery plan to tackle the backlog and bring about a return to pre COVID throughput. All 17 magistrates and 10 Crown Court locations were open and a new Nightingale court would provide an additional three trial capacity. There were plans to bring magistrates courts to around 80% of the pre-Covid courtroom capacity listing. Currently, listings were 50-60% of normal caseload and therefore prioritisation was critical. A steady increase in magistrate court trials was taking place. The plan was to get as close as possible to equilibrium and to reduce adjournments.

The Victims Commissioner updated the Board on the different issues which were being raised by victims such as delays and short notice for re-listings. Remote attendance and safeguarding problems were still apparent. Special measures for vulnerable victims and witnesses were problematic in some instances but this was being gripped.

There was some impact on the youth custody service but there was still headroom in youth custody estate. Remand numbers have not risen much, but the proportion of children in custody has risen. There was scope for a review of bail options over remand and, additionally, there was a need for the 17-18 year-old transition group to be prioritised.

Agenda Item 4: Any other business

There was no other business.

Date of next LCRB meeting: 20 October 2020
