



## **WEST MERCIA LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES.**

**Date:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Venue:** Zoom

**Chairman:** Andy Champness, CEO, West Mercia OPCC

**Minute Taker:** Rachael Thorold, West Mercia OPCC

<b>Name</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
-------------	-----------------

**Attendees:**

<b>OPCC:</b>	Andy Champness	Chairman, CEO
	Chris Jensen	CJS Business Manager
	Tracey Onslow	DPCC
	Claire Richardson	Commissioning Manager
	Rachael Thorold	Minute taker

**WMP & Partners:**

Chris Hodson	Snr Operations Manager, Victim Support
Jackie Stevenson	Head of Service, NPS
Keith Barham	Head of Service, WMYJS
Suzanne Llewellyn	Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS
Jonathan Price	Senior Legal Manager, HMCTS
James Tozer	Supt, C&V, Intel Non Sensitive & Special Ops,

<b>Apologies:</b>	David Cookson,	Deputy Head, Probation
	Dal Veysey	Director of Justice, WMCRC
	Geoff Wessell	ACC, Crime & Vulnerability, CJS WMP

**Open Session (Items likely to be made available for public view).**

No.	Item	Action
01/17/12/2020	<p><b>Welcomes/Introductions/Apologies.</b> See above.</p>	
02/17/12/2020	<p><b>a) Minutes and actions from the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</b> The minutes were recorded as an accurate record.</p> <p><b>Action Updates.</b> Nothing further to report.</p> <p><b>b) Minutes and actions from October's Regional CJ Forum (to note).</b> The minutes from the most recently held meeting will be issued in due course.</p>	
03/17/12/2020	<p><b>CJS Performance:</b></p> <p><b>a) High Level Summary Report.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the Covid situation, some areas of crime types have decreased.</li> <li>- The turnaround time for charging decisions is recovering.</li> <li>- The backlog in Magistrates' courts will be removed by the end of December 2020. Crown Court sittings are reduced due to Covid restrictions and backlogs are still significant.</li> <li>- In WM the Crown Court may move to Covid Hours of operation. This pilot is being currently evaluated.</li> <li>- A new dock and screens are being put into Worcs Crown Court which will allow 6 Defendant cases to be heard. The work will be carried out in January 2021.</li> <li>- An additional Nightingale Court has been set up in Birmingham.</li> <li>- The CPS are working with Victims and Witnesses to ensure they are kept informed and updated.</li> <li>- The DPCC sought clarity on the 20% reduction in crime and its effect on the court system. From a Crown Court perspective there is expected to be little impact but it may impact on the Magistrates' courts, which may then aid Crown Court capacity. JP stated that at the moment there is not a big difference in capacity.</li> <li>- KB sought assurance regarding the prioritisation of those Youth cases that are remanded into custody and for those nearing their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Class 1 cases (homicide) are prioritised first. The Courts do have to be mindful of prioritising sensitive and vulnerable cases.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) CPS Regional Dashboard.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 85% Magistrate conviction rate is very good.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 73% plea at first hearing rate has dropped slightly.</li> <li>- Guilty plea hearings per case has remained static.</li> <li>- 86% for Crown Court hearings is seen as an excellent figure.</li> <li>- Rape conviction rate remains high.</li> <li>- DA conviction rate has had a slight dip, which will be kept under review. The no. of trials dropped after 3<sup>rd</sup> hearing rate is high, which needs addressing.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION – CPS and HMCTS</b> to review case management information to determine what steps can be taken to reduce the volume of cases being dropped after three or more hearings, implementing solutions and reporting back to the LCJB.</p>	<p><b>JP / SL</b></p>
<p><b>04/17/12/2020</b></p>	<p><b>MoJ/NPCC – Attrition Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This Board will have a co-ordinating role over the key factors. This was agreed.</li> <li>- There are 6 action areas at the bottom of the circulated presentation, which all are to consider for working on over the next Quarter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Each agency to identify someone in each team to looking at reducing the attrition to be brought to the next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>CJ to produce a template to be used for the response.</b></p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>CJ</b></p>
<p><b>05/17/12/2020</b></p>	<p><b>Out Of Court Disposals.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There needs to be a process in place for developing Conditional Cautions and particularly for rehabilitative interventions. What’s available, what works and what could be done need capturing. ToR for the work will be developed and will incorporate this.</li> <li>- The Board needs to look at the proposed ToR, and the continuity of ownership and oversight for the project.</li> <li>- The WMYJS have a lot of experience and processes in place for the Young Adult and Youth age groups for the O OCD routes, and can offer support and advice on for the project. This was welcomed.</li> <li>- Work being done now is based on what services are available now. There is a wider range of intervention services available across the country, which could be researched and/or utilised.</li> <li>- Where DPP approval is required needs to be reflected in the ToR.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> The Board endorses the proposed approach.</p> <p><b>Action: the ToR are to be circulated for comment and enhancement.</b></p> <p>The ToR are to be virtually signed off prior to the next meeting of this Board.</p>	<p><b>CJ</b></p>

<p><b>06/17/12/2020</b></p>	<p><b>Race Disproportionality.</b> A covering note was circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Each Agency is to release the support and information required; to share good practice as it is identified; and to nominate an individual to act as the PoC for dissemination within the Agency. This was agreed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> The Board endorsed the proposed approach and funding. <b>Action: All are to respond to CJ with their nominated individual by 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.</b></p>	<p><b>All</b></p>
<p><b>07/17/12/2020</b></p>	<p><b>Integrated Offender Management – Refresh.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The revised strategy places the primary focus on volume types of crimes, with a consistent delivery structure in place, and consistent governance. It was agreed Governance for this strategy will lie with the Crime Reduction Board.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: The briefing for Sentencers is to be checked and confirmation sought as to whether it has been or will be disseminated.</b></p>	<p><b>JP</b></p>
<p><b>08/17/12/2020</b></p>	<p><b>Papers for Information.</b> Were circulated for information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Criminal Justice Strategic Command – Aims.</b> Nothing further raised.</li> <li>b) <b>HMCTS Recovery Update.</b> Nothing further raised.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>09/17/12/2020</b></p>	<p><b>AOB.</b> None raised.</p>	
<p><b>10/17/12/2020</b></p>	<p><b>Date, time and location of next meeting.</b> <b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b> <b>09:30 – 11:00</b> <b>Hindlip Park, WR3 8TA</b></p>	