

Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner

Topic: Criminal Justice Responsibilities

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Purpose of briefing

To raise awareness for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) of the current functions and priorities of the LCJP as well as the role which the OPCVC has in relation to supporting the partnership activities across the Criminal Justice Services.

Background

Whilst PCC responsibilities do not extend to holding other partner agencies to account, they do include a responsibility to ensure effective partnership working. This was reinforced via a nationally drawn up protocol which was agreed to in 2019 by all partner agencies in the area¹.

In 2014 there was a national review of LCJBs² and in 2015 the PCCs for the Cleveland and Durham areas commissioned a review of the local CJ arrangements³. This review made several recommendations for change and resulted in the PCCs sharing the chairing responsibilities for the partnership, providing funding for support staff and jointly publishing a local criminal justice partnership plan.⁴

Current issues

COVID19 has had a significant impact on CJ services, including an ever-increasing backlog of cases in the Crown Courts. Managing this situation has required a partnership response which will also be vital to manage recovery going forward.

Decisions needed

A recent discussion took place regarding current structure and potential changes were outlined both in relation to regional and local options going forward. Although the decision was made to remain in the current structure these discussions may be raised again as many of the CJ agencies in our area are or are moving towards a regional structure including the newly restructured National Probation Service.

Partnership involvement

At the present time the board is made up of all CJ agencies including the Constabulary, Prisons, Probation, Her Majesty's Court Service, Crown Prosecution Service, Legal Aid Agency, and NHS England. There are representatives from Local authority areas as well as the board having mutual reporting links into the Community Safety Partnership groups

¹ [..\..\Criminal Justice System\LCJP\NCJB, APACE, MoJ etc.\20150511 Protocol National CJS Engagement with PCCs final HOLA.DOC](#)

² <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/working-in-step-a-joint-inspection-of-local-criminal-justice-partnerships/>

³ [\\dr-pcc-dfs01\ODPCVC\DATA\Criminal Justice System\LCJP\Archived Docs\meetings and papers 2013 - 2016\2016-09-06\LCJB Review 6.9.16.docx](#)

⁴ [..\..\Criminal Justice System\LCJP\LCJP Plans and Plans on Pages\LCJP Plan.pdf](#)

The Partnership has five main subgroups, all striving to work with relevant partners in order to develop a whole system approach to the delivery of services including co commissioning where possible.

Police involvement

The partnership board is currently attended by the Chief Constable from Durham whilst the subgroups have senior level representation. Within the accountability responsibilities of the OPCVC the LCJP provides a further vehicle for monitoring the work of the force both in relation to positive feedback and opportunities.

People to meet

All members of the board will be influential strategic partners to meet and potentially develop regular conversations with, in addition to attendance at the board.