

Sussex Criminal Justice Forum

Belfour Beatty Living Places, The Broyle, Ringmer, Lewes BN8 5NP

4th July 2024

Attending:

Maisie McCabe, Aidie Northeast, Polly Eason, Jackie Randles, Sarah Knight, Lyndsey Lloyd-Strutt, Lucinda Fraser, Alice Field, Laura Parsons, Nicholas Cooke, Ash Acott, Susie Kennedy, Neil Worth, Mary Beal, Andrew Mitchell, Darren Isiorho, Paul Read, Poppy Burt, Fiona Barrett, Kat Williams, Steve Fradley, Mark Whaley, Denis Byrne.

1. Welcome and introductions – brief overview of forum purpose & ambition.

Mark gave an introduction about the Forum as a space for organisations working with people who have experience of the criminal justice system.

2. Belfour Beatty presentation of their work with prison leavers in local area.

Sadly, Ceri unable to attend due to illness, but Mark and Steven updated on employment opportunities provided by Belfour Beatty.

Adrian also updated on employment and training programmes in local prisons and recruiting local employers who partner with Belfour Beatty.

DB asked how people on probation/in community can access Belfour Beatty or Aidrians programmes. DWP are active with identified work coaches for people in the CJS.

HS asked how this works with Women prisons? PELS also operates in Female estate. Sussex Pathways running a wraparound service for females on release.

3. Presentation about work of charity Become, Rasheeda White.

Rasheeda unable to attend. 'Become' is an organisation that supports Care Leavers .

4. Member Requested Topic – Clock Tower Sanctuary (Poppy)

Discussion on 'County Lines':

Poppy from ClockTower updated on the Sanctuary day centre for homeless young people in Brighton. Clocktower supports young people and there has been a noticeable increase in county lines exploitation, cuckooing and trafficking. Popp asked what support is available? Jackie highlighted how these young people (18 years old) are transitioning to unprepared adult services with the Police prioritising a focus on Serious Organised Crime operatives at the 'top of the pyramid'.

The Forum explored how can we develop a relationship between community services supporting young people in this cohort and statutory services (Police and Probation) who are addressing this strategically, to develop a whole systems approach. Paul talked about the importance relationships with Police. Jackies project focussing on 18+ age group but we acknowledged there is a gap in strategically linking with under 18 services. Lindsey suggested contacting the Youth Transition Teams who will have responsibility for these young people and connecting children and adults services. Sarah and Jackie shared how CGL and Police have a monthly cuckooing meeting to share intel, but there still remains a disconnect between adult and children's services for transitioning young people.

This disconnect between CJS services has been discussed in the forum previously. Neil from PCC suggested the PCC can facilitate conversations to develop a coordinated approach.

Kat highlighted pilot work commissioned by Probation and PCC to develop support for people on probation, so suggested Probation can input into this discussion.

Action: Jackie to write a summary/brief about the intentions for the 'exploitation/county lines transitioning' group.

Action: Set up a County Lines group on the CJS Forum Online platform.

Action: Colleagues to put themselves forward to develop a 'steering group' for County Lines (and the related issues).

Action: Lucinda can also support connections but will require additional information from the forum.

5. Update on CJF & brief presentation of proposed use of 'Slack workgroup' as an on-line forum / directory

Mark highlighted the online forum as a platform for various topics which can invite. Mark shared the CJS Forum online Slack platform.

Action: Mark to send Slack invite to attendees.

Action: Colleagues to update Directory on Platform.

6. AOB / Other concerns

Jackie asked about Probation reset. Kat updated that Probation services are applying different approaches with change in contact arrangements for final third of licence for people on probation. Colleagues were concerned of the impact this will have on community services.

Action: Kat to do a presentation at next Forum meeting and discuss the impact on community services.

Thanks to Balfour Beatty for an excellent lunch and for hosting the Forum.

7. Date and Venue of Next Meeting:

To be confirmed