

Criminal Justice Forum, Sussex (CJF Sussex) – Meeting Minutes

Date: 20th November, 11:00–13:00

Location: Haywards Heath Town Hall, 40 Boltro Road, Haywards Heath
RH16 1BA

Meeting Chair – Mark Whaley

11:00 Tea/Coffee & biscuits etc, opportunity to network/chat

11:15 Meeting start

1. Welcome and introductions –

Mark Whaley – Making it Out

Clem Manning – SPF

Vicky Waller – Sussex Pathways (men's service)

Debbie Knight – Probation regional (head of community engagement)

Andrew Mitchell (Red Snapper – Immediate Justice)

Darren Isiorho (Red Snapper – Immediate Justice)

Michael Parker – Band of Brothers

Trevor Botting – Sussex Pathways (new chair of trustees)

Shirl Tanner – Sussex Pathways

Stephanie Belling – Brighton Women's Centre

Nick Cooke – Brighton probation

Jackie Randles – CGL head of CJ

Polly Hedger – CJ team leader Crawley

Sarah Mewison – Become (care experienced support service)

Mary-Bell Pragnell – IMB Lewes

Poppy Burt – Clock Tower Sanctuary (CJ lead)

Trish – YMCA Brighton

Martin Coll – YMCA Brighton

2. Feedback & actions from previous meeting

County Lines

- Concern county lines pushed into the backwater a little bit. Become normalised.
- Separate issues identified
 - o Child CL entrenched and evident in YMCA high need houses.
 - o New cohort of vulnerable adults being involved (victim perpetrators)
- Not wanting to criminalise YPs but needing to report illegal behaviour
- VW talk at Crawley community college young people opened up about the

- Lived experience needed – where can this be found?
- PB – Friend who has lived experience but there are many threads that create a difficulty to get any help to those that need it. Jason Eade working with young people previously, could this expand?
- Willingness to use forum as a vehicle to express voluntary sector concerns and appetite to be more involved.
- Exploitation team at the police – talk to them to involve in coming forums...

ACTION – Set up action sub-committee of forum members to co-ordinate better communication with police and collaborative approach to some of the local issues identified.

3. Early releases

What extra pressures & how organisations have adapted?

- PB – High needs and risk clients at Clock Tower Sanctuary
- DK – Early releases have actually been happening over a longer period but this has increased with 40% of sentence
- DK – Probation ‘reactively monitoring’ after 66% of licence. Request that other services are feeding back information relating to adherence to licence conditions.
MW – Could this be better communicated?
- TB – Is very high now a standard term – DK yes a mapp 3 and immediate risk to others, these not included in early release or RESET.
- DK – Unfortunately, there are more high-risk offenders being released and this was the only option.

Discussion

- Push towards community orders which has increased workload on CGL and other services.
- Everyone now looking for sentence review for guidance on future working practices – they are looking for feedback currently.
- Remand problem as there is no support on release from court and no plan or time as to release.
- DK – Looking at how to support remand, court releases and end of sentence releases.
- CGL Really struggling to keep up with release and recall merry-go-round.

New commissioning to support a voluntary sector communication, possibly managed by Clinks type organisation.

Discussion of contract management across the KSS and how much funding has disappeared to larger ‘contract management’ organisations.

DK encouraging that there

4. Space for any organisation to update on a particular topic or programme they would like to share.

MP from BoB – explanation of service and how they work with and request to work more closely with the community organisations.

- Discussions of how they work and how their participants benefit.
- Need to keep some mystery about their 'weekends' but reassured that it is all positive and helps manage behaviour etc.

Sarah from Become – National charity working with care leavers up to 27. Range of free services helping people to understand their legal care services and help with extra support. Can connect to help available for YPs that they are eligible for. Can also offer staff training for working with care leavers.

5. Establishment of a forum steering group – request for members

- General enthusiasm for collaboration to manage the forum going forward.
- Sub-committee for county lines and how to communicate with regional powers etc.

6. AOB from ant organisations.

Toxic Masculinity 'the Andrew Tate generation' is something we need to be aware of and seeing a greater number of sex offences by young people and what is acceptable and how this impacts on relationships behaviour within them.