

Interim progress review (12 months)

Hampshire & Isle of Wight LCJB Plan (2019 – 2021)



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Contents

[Priorities 2019 - 2021 3](#_Toc67490360)

[Introduction 3](#_Toc67490361)

[Priority: Improving public confidence 4](#_Toc67490362)

[Improving Public Confidence: Update on Progress 5](#_Toc67490363)

[Partnership working/events 5](#_Toc67490364)

[Criminal Justice Week 24-28 February 2020 5](#_Toc67490365)

[Crime and punishment – second series 6](#_Toc67490366)

[Communications and engagement activity 6](#_Toc67490367)

[The Criminal Justice System: views of our residents 7](#_Toc67490368)

[Safer Awards 2020 7](#_Toc67490369)

[Wessex CJS Recovery Communications 8](#_Toc67490370)

[Plans for 2021 8](#_Toc67490371)

[Priority: Supporting victims in their journey 9](#_Toc67490372)

[Supporting Victims: Update on Progress 9](#_Toc67490373)

[Priority: Reducing offending and improve rehabilitation 11](#_Toc67490374)

[Reducing offending: Update on Progress 11](#_Toc67490375)

[Drug and Alcohol Misuse 12](#_Toc67490376)

[Mental Health 12](#_Toc67490377)

[Leaving the criminal justice system 12](#_Toc67490378)

[Female offenders 12](#_Toc67490379)

[Trauma-informed working 13](#_Toc67490380)

[Young people 13](#_Toc67490381)

[Other priorities 13](#_Toc67490382)

[Priority: Deliver an effective and efficient Criminal Justice System in Hampshire & IOW 15](#_Toc67490383)

[Effective and Efficient Criminal Justice: Update on Progress 15](#_Toc67490384)

[Prosecution Team Performance Management 15](#_Toc67490385)

[Quality Assurance Delivery Group 15](#_Toc67490386)

[Video Capability and Digitisation 16](#_Toc67490387)

[Rape and Serious Sexual Offences 16](#_Toc67490388)

[Hampshire & IOW Criminal Justice Board Plan Addendum 2020 18](#_Toc67490389)

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# Priorities 2019 - 2021

Improving public confidence by raising awareness of the role of CJS partners and their services

Supporting victims in their journey to ensure their experience is of a seamless single system

Reducing offending and improve rehabilitation

Deliver an effective and efficient Criminal Justice System in Hampshire & IOW

# **Introduction**

The Local Criminal Justice Board for Hampshire & IOW (LCJB) brings together agencies with responsibility for delivering criminal justice services across our area. The criminal justice (CJ) landscape is complex and no single agency is responsible for the system as a whole. It is vital that criminal justice agencies are unified in their ambition and work together, to improve outcomes both for victims of crime and people who offend and deliver justice in the most efficient and effective way possible. This report, prepared by the LCJB Business Managers, looks to review progress against the activities that were identified in the original plan finalised in early 2019.

# Priority: Improving public confidence

Improving public confidence by raising awareness of the role of Criminal Justice Service (CJS) partners and their services.

Research (ongoing):

* YouGov research – 1st wave Aug 20: Complete
* YouGov research – 2nd wave Feb 21
* YouGov research – 3rd wave Aug 21

Campaigns and materials (ongoing):

* Criminal Justice Week (Feb 20) : Complete
* 100 years of women in CJS (Feb 19/Jan 20): Complete
* Crime and Punishment (C&P) series 2: Complete

Internal Communications (ongoing):

* Messaging shared on C&P series for internal circulation: Complete
* Internal messaging on Safer Awards circulated: Complete
* Weekly recovery comms being issued for internal audiences: Complete

Digital Communications (ongoing)

* Website - publish LCJB Annual Review and LCJB 2019-21 Plan: Complete
* 72 Films: Complete
* LCJB webpages and signposting during C&P series: Complete

Partnership/ Stakeholder Events (ongoing):

* Court Open Day: Paused
* Safer Awards (3 December 2020): Ongoing
* Youth Commission members on CPS Scrutiny Panels: Ongoing
* Crime and Punishment LCJB event and comms: Complete

Media and Social Media (ongoing):

* Court Films: Complete
* News release and interview with Judge on courts during COVID: Complete
* Wessex recovery comms to victims and public: Ongoing

Focus on:

* Being innovative in response to challenges
* To be sufficiently flexible to respond to emerging priorities (e.g. impact of Brexit)

## Improving Public Confidence: Update on Progress

### Partnership working/events

We actively supported the 100 years of women in criminal justice throughout 2019, finishing the year by sharing two video interviews, one with the Chief Constable and one with Defence Solicitor and a blog piece from Wessex Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Chief Crown Prosecutor, which was edited from speech delivered at the event in September. The links to the interviews and blog were shared through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) social media channels in late December and early January 2020.

Members of the Commissioner’s Youth Commission (YC) are now part of a youth panel with the CPS, scrutinising cases that are linked to the YC priorities. This creates opportunities to be shared more widely with the public to build their confidence in the system. The CPS presented to the Youth Commission in February 2020 and YC members took in a panel based on the new YC cohort priorities. This was shared by YC members on social media and a blog was prepared by a YC mentor and shared online.

### Criminal Justice Week 24-28 February 2020

The Law Society ran Justice Week from Monday 24 February to Friday 28 February. The aim of Justice Week 2020 was to improve access to justice by boosting the profile of justice and the rule of law, placing them at the centre stage of public and political debate.

It was focussed on young people, helping them to:

* understand the importance of the justice system
* value the rule of law
* see justice and the rule of law as fundamental to our lives and freedoms

We featured the week on the home page of the OPCC website and in order to be part of the debate, we ran a short on our poll through the website, asking if people know their rights - ‘How confident are you that you know your legal rights if you are stopped and searched by the police?’ We ran the poll for the week and shared the results online to finish the week of activity. The ‘thank you for voting page’ linked to information on the LCJB pages and links to details about your rights if stopped and searched and other legal rights.

We also shared the video interviews and blogs that we used briefly at the end of the year for the 100 years again to widen their reach:

* [Defence Solicitor video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s7xKjpsnzY)
* [Defence Solicitor blog](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/commissioner/my-blog/30-november-2018-chloe-jay-criminal-defence)
* [Chief Constable video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8pdF8NSqLw)
* [Chief Constable blog](%E2%80%A2%09https%3A/www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/commissioner/my-blog/22-november-2018-cc-olivia-pinkney-local-criminal-justice)
* [Chief Crown Prosecutor blog](%E2%80%A2%09https%3A/www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/commissioner/my-blog/19-december-2019-jo-jakymec-100-years-of-women-in-law)
* [Chief Crown Prosecutor blog](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/commissioner/my-blog/26-november-2018-head-of-cps-wessex)

Young Citizens also led the **Big Legal Lesson on the 28th of February**. To support these we prepared some vox pops of Youth Commission members answering the following:

* Why do you think the criminal justice system is so important?
* Do you think the current Criminal Justice System is effective?
* Do you think young people respect the law?
* What could the Criminal Justice System do differently to work with young people?

Shentons Solicitors also supported this and gave some talks in a local school as part of the Big Legal Lesson.

### Crime and punishment – second series

Two series of Crime and Punishment have now been broadcast. The programmes and associated media coverage has reached millions of viewers and members of the public and the programmes have generated debate around the challenges faced by the criminal justice system.

The first series of Channel 4’s Crime and Punishment started on 16 September 2019 and had a strong focus on Her Majesty’s Prison (HMP) Winchester and Probation. The second series was broadcast on 12 August 2020. The programmes were a result of four years of filming by 72 films of the local criminal justice system across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The first series was very successful and created considerable online debate and national media coverage. There was greater public understanding of the challenges faced in the prison and probation and a great deal of admiration and positivity for the staff working in these areas. The series was nominated for a BAFTA for the best factual series.

The second series highlighted the multi-agency approach to justice and is particularly focussed on police and CPS with one episode also covering a youth offending. The series also highlighted the challenges for a modern police force and the challenges facing the CPS. The first episode of the second series focussed on the handling of rape cases and created the most public debate of the series, with questions raised around the low numbers of rape prosecutions what is also a national debate.

The programmes undoubtedly raised the profile of the work of partners in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and the issues and challenged faced by the criminal justice system as a whole. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Criminal Justice Board agreed to allow 72 films to have unique access to film across the entire system to raise awareness, build understanding and engagement, demystify the system and build public confidence. They have also helped to raise awareness of the determination and commitment of dedicated staff working across the system.

### Communications and engagement activity

For the second series of Crime and Punishment, the LCJB delivered the following, working closely with Hampshire Constabulary and the CPS:

* Channel 4 led extensive national media coverage
* LCJB, Hampshire Constabulary and CPS communications worked closely together throughout to share messaging and plans for communications
* LCJB website pages updates and signposting to support services pages updates ahead of each programme.
* Briefing and viewing for LCJB members ahead of the first programme was undertaken, to enable partners to share to their own staff
* Hampshire Constabulary sent internal update to all staff
* Chair of the LCJB wrote to political stakeholders
* PCC wrote to all commissioned partners who provide services for victims to brief them ahead of the first programme of the second series
* PCC wrote to MPs to inform them of the forthcoming series
* Made contact with the charity Yellow Door to offer to work together on communication and to identify if an ISVA would be available for interviews, if asked
* We worked closely with Victim Care Service to signpost to the service online and throughout the programmes
* [Open letter’ from the LCJB Chair to media.](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/open-letter-to-the-public-from-the-chair-of-the-local-criminal-justice-board)
* Extensive digital communication including news on OPCC website pages, updates to LCJB pages and social media activity by OPCC and Hampshire Constabulary. This is included monitoring of social media comments during the programmes and signposting to support services in the online conversations
* LCJB Chair Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney took part in online national debate, led by Channel 4, focussed on rape prosecutions

### The Criminal Justice System: views of our residents

In order to get an understanding of residents’ thoughts and views on the wider criminal justice system and how this influences their feelings of safety and confidence, a survey was run on behalf of the LCJB will a sample of just under 2000 people. The questions were entered into YouGov using an online survey administered to members of the YouGov panel from across England. The intention is to re-run these questions every 6 months to build up our evidence base of residents from the Wessex CPS area (Hampshire, IOW, Dorset and Wiltshire) compared to the rest of England.

### Safer Awards 2020

Two new categories were added to the Police and Crime Commissioner’s annual Safer Awards on 3 December 2020, as follows:

**Criminal Justice Volunteer of the Year** – to recognise the outstanding contribution of volunteers supporting the criminal justice system who provide vital support to victims, witnesses, offenders and the vulnerable.

**Exceptional contributions during COVID-19** (another new category requested by the LCJB which provides an opportunity for all partners to nominate during this unprecedented year). This is a new award for 2020 to formally recognise the exceptional contributions of staff and volunteers working across the whole criminal justice system during the pandemic. This is to say thank you to those going above and beyond their role to support the vulnerable and keep our communities safer during the exceptional and unprecedented time.

The event will be taking place, but we are pleased to have received award nominations from the CRC, Hampshire Constabulary, CPS, Southampton YOT, HMP Winchester and the Courts and hope they will be successful at the event.

### Wessex CJS Recovery Communications

A news release and video was issued following an interview with Winchester Resident Judge. This also features on the OPCC/LCJB web pages and was signposted to through social media.

Working with the Wessex Recovery group a Q&A has been prepared for victims and witnesses on how the courts have adapted to be COVID-safe and to enable cases to progress through the system, it also signpost to where support is still available. This is on the home page of the OPCC website and features on the LCJB website pages. Social media posts signposting to this are being scheduled and an update news release will also be drafted. A stakeholder letter has been issued to MPs in Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire.

### Plans for 2021

**Wessex Recovery** - As we come out of the pandemic, communications, engagement and media will need to continue on the recovery of the criminal justice system.

**Criminal justice week 2021** – this will be a good hook to go out to the public and to schools/children to continue to build awareness of the system. A plan will be developed and circulated to the LCJB on the opportunities to promote the CJS during this week.

**Safer Awards 2020** – we will look to run the awards again next year with the LCJB categories. This can be promoted more widely.

**Campaigns** – we will explore the opportunity for the LCJB to link up with the work of the Youth Commission and VRUs to support a campaign on serious violence and knife crime and also around Domestic Abuse and Sexual Crime.

# Priority: Supporting victims in their journey

Supporting victims in their journey to ensure their experience is of a seamless single system.

Oversee CJ partners’ compliance with Victims Code of Practice (ongoing):

* Identify and challenge gaps: Ongoing
* ‘Safer Hampshire’ document: Paused
* Literature review and maintain: Paused

Create, share and maintain directory of all services available (complete).

Improve court experience for Victims & Witnesses (V&W) (ongoing):

* Remote evidence options: Ongoing
* Understand local impact of court audit: Paused
* Consider V&W when moving CC trials: Ongoing
* Improve trial effectiveness: Ongoing

Respond effectively to Domestic Abuse (DA) cases (ongoing)

* Implement national DA Best Practice Framework: Complete
* Widening remit of SDAC group: Paused

Consider how to establish **evidence base** for understanding victims experience and ensure their voice is heard.

## Supporting Victims: Update on Progress

This priority area of work continues to be overseen by the Victim and Witness (V&W) sub-group to the LCJB.

Back in 2019, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) introduced a set of measures for local areas to capture data on a dip sample of cases to assess **compliance with the Victim Code of Practice (VCoP)**. Hampshire & IoW complied with this request and sent back a number of returns, however the findings had limited value locally, this was fed back nationally and the view was consistent with many other areas. In the spring of 2020 the MoJ focused their work on the consultation for the revised VCoP and paused the requirement for compliance returns. The V&W Group considered reviewing outcomes from the various scrutiny panels that already exist to maximise information already available, with a view to co-ordinating this feedback better, and identify cross cutting themes. This work was then put on hold due to the outbreak of the COVID pandemic where partners focus has been on prioritising service to victims and witnesses through this challenging time. In November 2020 [the updated Victims Code](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-improving-the-victims-code), effective from April 2021 was published and the group will now collaboratively work to prioritise the changes and identifying potential impact for services.

When the multi-agency victim code compliance task and finish group that was set up to review the initial request from the MoJ for VCoP compliance measures, it was identified that Cumbria had produced a document ‘Safer Cumbria’ identifying four areas which they focus on delivering for victims and Hampshire were keen to scope similar piece of work. This was paused when the COVID pandemic started, however there are aspects of this work that are now being developed again which includes a scoping exercise to see where there are opportunities to improve service to victims, including accessibility of victim services and **review of victim related information**. The first task is for police to review how accessible information is and whether it is adapted to different communication needs. Future development will be seeking views from partners, establishing whether this information is being shared appropriately and maximise opportunities to share learning.

**Directory of services** available to all was created by [the Victim Care Service](http://hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk/finding-the-right-help-for-you/) and published in March 2020, this facility continues to be maintained to ensure the information remains current. All partners were given the opportunity to provide input and feedback ahead of going live.

The ongoing action to **improve the court experience for victims and witnesses** has continued its focus through the changing time in the court environment as result of the COVID pandemic. The court estate has been adapted to provide a safe environment to maximise the use of courts in accordance with social distancing requirements. This has been enabled through changes in furnishings, installing screens and implementing new processes and procedures. To prove reassurance and support to victims and witnesses attendance at court, the work undertaken has been shared through Q&As and photographs. Through this period, due to the delays in hearing cases, there has been an increase in victims and witnesses within the system and requirement to provide support for longer. This has been recognised as a challenge for the Witness Care Unit and additional resource has been provided to ensure service is maintained. Through the on-going recovery work, partners are working together to ensure that the highest harm cases are prioritised and victims and witnesses needs are communicated and considered.

The H&IOW V&W Group are developing a framework of data to ensure that all victim and witness related risks are identified and through this forum enable partnership problem solving. To **improve trial effectiveness** cases are now reviewed by the group to understand the reasons for discontinuance, cracking or being ineffective to establish trends and the impact of court delays on victims supporting the prosecution.

Opportunities to allow **remote evidence** to be given continue to be considered and the implementation of s28, pre-recorded evidence for vulnerable victims will be live in all the crown courts in Hampshire & IoW by end of November. Live links capability via CVP (Cloud Video Platform) to enable police officers to give evidence remotely is being rolled out across Hampshire & IoW over the next couple of months. When this has been successfully embedded, consideration will be given to scoping further for other witnesses.

The Hampshire & IoW Specialist Domestic Abuse (DA) Court Group continue to meet regularly to monitor court performance for domestic abuse cases, this includes reviewing timeliness to first hearing, guilty pleas, conviction rates and trial effectiveness. Having implemented the national **DA Best Practice Framework**, they continue to assess compliance and progress on areas that require scrutiny with regular returns nationally.

# Priority: Reducing offending and improve rehabilitation

Improve outcomes for Drug and Alcohol Misuse (paused):

* Assess the needs of service users
* Expectations of agencies
* Prison leavers access to treatment
* Completed treatments and satisfaction levels

Improve sentencing for mental health (ongoing):

* Mental health sentencing options
* Liaison & Diversion supporting assessments: Completed

Improve Resettlement and Accommodation (ongoing):

* Availability of services to support
* Partnership communication of services

Women only pathways (ongoing):

* Women’s Centre – all agencies link in
* Women and Desistance Engagement (WaDE) Pilot
* Trauma informed training
* Statement of intent: Paused

Young people - up to 25 (focus on those that seriously offend) (paused):

* Scrutiny of Out of Court Disposals
* Post-18 Service
* Support Pupil Referral Units

Improve understanding of Serious Organised Crime (ongoing):

* Educate and strengthen links
* Support understanding of Judiciary/ Jury.

## Reducing offending: Update on Progress

The LCJB priority focusing on Reducing Reoffending has been under significant pressure over the last year considering the impact of the COVID pandemic. Agencies have been required to establish contingency plans and exceptional delivery models to meet their service delivery requirements. This is not only to support service users throughout their interventions but also to deliver the requirements of their court orders, effectively manage risks and reduce reoffending. Agencies in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have come together in a variety of partnership forums including the LCJB Reducing Reoffending sub-group (RRSG) and the Wessex CJS Recovery Group to raise concerns and seek solutions.

While progress against the LCJB priorities in some areas has paused to support frontline delivery, other work has continued or adapted to meet with the new challenges faced throughout the pandemic and lockdowns. It is clear that COVID has had a significant impact on the ability of partnership collaboration to enable resources to go above and beyond the requirements of day to day delivery. Progress against the activities is detailed below.

### Drug and Alcohol Misuse

Improving **Drug and Alcohol** misuse outcomes remains an LCJB priority with agencies such as the National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company still assessing the needs of the services users they work with. Additional partnership work to gain a greater understanding of the wider picture influencing outcomes of Drug and Alcohol clients in Criminal Justice in Hampshire and Isle of Wight remains outstanding.

### Mental Health

Following up on concerns raised by the LCJB in 2018 regarding **Mental Health** assessments, the sub group sought to improve communications with partners around the Liaison and Diversion provision. At the last planning meeting in 2019 the sub group were awaiting a review report following this work to evidence whether improvements had been made. From the information provided, there was evidence of an improvement with Liaison and Diversion positively impacting the ability of the Judiciary and Magistrates to sentence defendants to suitable mental health interventions across the courts in Hampshire & Isle of Wight. This was been done without the need to expand on the existing provision or explore pilot schemes such as those being trialled in Plymouth and Milton Keynes.

### Leaving the criminal justice system

Progress against the **accommodation** priority has been delayed due to COVID as immediate concerns have predominated over longer term pieces of work such as this. Nevertheless very useful links have been created. The Probation service has allocated funding to provide housing related support to people leaving the criminal justice system and the potential for future joint work with the newly integrated probation service is very promising. Additionally new closer links are developing between this work and Shared Ventures who are promoting a public health approach to homelessness, and this will include the housing needs of those leaving prison and other CJS institution.

### Female offenders

Regarding female offenders leaving the CJS, the OPCC has facilitated a meeting with One Small Thing and commissioning agencies to support and guide this exciting new project.

**Women** only centres and the women’s statement of intent were being led jointly by the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and National Probation Service (NPS); this is currently paused in terms of the RRSG. The creation of the Unified National Probation Service in June 2021 will enable us to bring together a renewed approach to working with adult women service users, ensuring that we build on the good practice already in existence. Additionally, it is planned that women’s services will be available via the dynamic framework from day 1 of the New National Probation Service.

Furthermore, partners at the RRSG are engaged with the charity One Small Thing, and have been linked in on the development of the Hope Street Hub which has continued to progress throughout 2020 despite lockdown. The site identified for the hub is now owned by the charity and planning permission has been granted. Existing buildings on the site will be demolished over the next few weeks and wooden security hoarding erected with logos and information on what Hope Street is to engage the local community. Building work is set to commence in early January and complete in February 2022. The operational open date is planned for April 2022.

The conditional cautioning programme for women – WaDE (Women and Desistence Engagement), as with all of Hampshire’s Out of Court Disposals, was temporarily paused in April 2020 at the beginning of lockdown. In mid-August WaDE was reintroduced with small groups taking into account the rule of 6 and working within the Government guidelines. A contingency was also established to utilise online or individual telephone work should that be required, however following further discussions and confirmation from the Government that such groups can continue during the second lockdown this has continued to date. Relatively low numbers coming through at this time have supported the requirement for small groups and the contingency plans remain in place should the situation change. Local communications have also been circulated to prompt Custody Sergeants in the East of the county regarding WaDE and the opportunity it provides for women. An evaluation of the Pilot is still planned, however due to COVID this is not expected until April 2021 if throughput numbers support this.

### Trauma-informed working

In the last 12 months, Trauma Informed training has continued to roll out across the county through various forums. This agenda is now coordinated through the Trauma Informed Executive Board jointly chaired by Police ACC and Public Health Director HCC and IOW.  Progress has been made in the Violence Reduction Units with the OPCC funding 12 professionals who due to become Trauma Informed Educators who will look to champion the trauma informed approach and help organisations culturally move to a trauma informed approach by the end of November 2020. Some training delivery has been impacted during 2020 such asthe ACEs toolkits and trauma sessions through Rockpool, which had been unsuitable to deliver remotely, however the adult toolkit has now been adapted and training has recommenced.

### Young people

Progressing additional work to support **young people in the 18-25 year old** transitional age group has paused during this time. However, the sub group continue to follow the progress of the Gateway Project, which focuses on this age group through delivery of diversionary conditional cautions. Following temporary suspension during spring and early summer, the scheme restarted in August and the supporting randomised control research resumed in September. The study plans to run until November 2022 in order to capture the required participant number for a statistically valid sample. Funding post May 2021 is awaiting confirmation. In order to deliver the provision safely under the COVID rules the two Linx sessions from the Hampton Trust are carried out over the phone rather than through group work, however the Navigator support can still be delivered in person subject of risk assessing with less essential appointments also over the phone. To date 61 individuals have consented to be part of the study with 34 receiving the Gateway caution and 27 allocated to the control group. Outcome data continues to be capture to support the evidence base behind the study.

### Other priorities

Serious Organised Crime remains a priority, primarily to explore whether a suitable training package can be developed for partners. This would aim to assist partners in better understanding and identifying whether organised crime may be impacting on their service users in terms of risks of harm and reoffending.

Regionally, the South West have been increasing momentum on a number of linked areas for Reducing Reoffending and best practice will be shared into Hampshire where required. As we move in to 2021, when the changes to Probation delivery will be realised the group will look to the reunified National Probation Service to ensure there is consistency with the South Central NPS strategy and our local LCJB Priorities.

# Priority: Deliver an effective and efficient Criminal Justice System in Hampshire & IOW

Monitor handling of criminal cases through the CJS to improve the impact on V&W (QADG & PTPM) (ongoing):

* Quality Assurance Delivery Group: Paused
	+ (**TSJ / BCM** initiatives) Focus on timeliness, hearings per case, late dropped cases and pre-sentence reports on day: Ongoing
	+ Reduce **late and delayed** investigations and charging decisions for youth cases and those with vulnerable witnesses (H&IOW only): Completed
	+ Monitor performance and impact as a result of the **Bail Act** changes across the CJS: Ongoing
	+ Scope sharing data set of serious and multi-handed offences in the pipeline for court to assist **CC with forward planning** (H&IOW only): Completed
* Prosecution Team Performance Management: Ongoing
	+ Focus on Rape and Serious Sexual Offences: Ongoing
	+ Disclosure Action Plan: Ongoing
	+ File Quality: Ongoing

Progress to digital by default (Digital and Video Groups) (ongoing):

* Court digitisation/ reform: Ongoing
* Regional video work: Paused
* Digital First Programme: Ongoing

## Effective and Efficient Criminal Justice: Update on Progress

This priority area of work continues to be overseen by the Wessex CJS Efficiency Board.

### Prosecution Team Performance Management

The Group continues to focus on the Wessex Tri-Force **Disclosure Action Plan** and monitoring **file quality.** File monitoring is ongoing and the tri-force meetings are effective and making significant differences in the quality of files submitted. Failures in quality are identified, with reasons and breakdowns of evidential issues provided to police to ensure training is targeted. The Disclosure Action Plan continues to be worked through and the same themes are identified at the scrutiny panels. Scrutiny panels are having a positive impact and disclosure champions are in place across all forces and CPS Wessex units. The plan is subject to further assurance at the multi-agency Wessex Disclosure Forum which is attended by the CPS, the 3 Wessex region police forces, the defence, the judiciary, magistrates, HMCTS and the criminal bar.

### Quality Assurance Delivery Group

The Group have reflected where this group sits within the current framework given that much of the group’s usual business is now being addressed through the CJS Recovery and Court Capacity forums that are meeting more frequently. The proposal is to pause these meetings while the current recovery forums are in place.

The board set an objective to be able to reassure victims and witnesses that the level of service has not been adversely impacted because of the **bail act changes** and that we are able to, and are identifying areas of risk. An agreed set of measures were identified and Wiltshire Police have taken the lead on reviewing these measures within their systems to see what can be achieved to meet the objective. This continues to be a work in progress and the ambition is that when the data becomes available in Wiltshire it can be replicated in Hampshire. This work will inevitably be impacted by legislative change to the bail act.

### Video Capability and Digitisation

The **video capabilit**y landscape across the SW region is very varied and the board set an objective to identify what we want to achieve now and how we can do that in the changed environment. In order to achieve this it was agreed to establish and review our current kit with a view to identifying where additional or movement of kit is required. To create joined up business cases for additional video equipment as identified and explore other opportunities for using video technology. To review utilisation with a view to identifying and removing barriers and flag any wider best practice. This has been a challenging area of work and Wessex has not been able to progress, as we would have liked. The impact on resource through the COVID recovery period has led to this being paused. The Wessex CJS Recovery work does however provide the forum for sharing developments with video usage through Cloud Video Platform and exploring other options. Nationally this is being looked at as a priority and there is sprint work underway.

**Court digitalisation** and reform has continued with its programme of work implementing the various national digital working projects at a local level. The implementation of s28, pre-recorded evidence for vulnerable victims will be live in all the crown courts in Hampshire & IoW by end of November.

The two work streams - Reduce late and delayed investigations and charging decisions for youth cases and those with vulnerable witnesses and ‘Scope sharing data set of serious and multi-handed offences in the pipeline for court to assist Crown Court with forward planning’ were both completed in 2019 and update provided in the 2019 LCJB Progress Review document.

### Rape and Serious Sexual Offences

The Wessex Tri-Force **Rape and Serious Sexual Offences** (RASSO) Action Plan is a priority for the CPS Chief Crown Prosecutor and Chief Constables across Wessex and is starting to make some traction. Through a platinum meeting, the Chiefs assess the improvements made so far covered by five key themes, victims and witnesses, quality, disclosure, people and effective governance. A pan Wessex performance dashboard has been developed and is already starting to see some movement. Reassuringly the local RASSO plan correlates to the national NPCC and CPS action plan. Local progress with this will continue to be a standing agenda item at the LCJB through 2021 where performance outcomes will be shared. Working in tandem the three PCCs across Wessex have developed a RASSO scrutiny programme with five areas including, skills and training, investigative standards, force and CPS relationships, victim care aspect and culture. Now that there is more clarity on the tri-force activity, they can start to focus on the gaps and provide assurance on the tri-force plan. To add to the significant amount of work already underway there has also been a HMICFRS and HMCPSI joint thematic inspection into the police and CPS response to rape, where Hampshire are one of six force areas that have been inspected and Wessex one of the CPS areas. The outcomes from that inspection are due soon and will be incorporated into the ongoing work. There has been significant progress in effective partnership working between the constabulary and CPS Wessex in the joint delivery of improvements to relationships, processes and training and this will remain a focus going forward.

# Hampshire & IOW Criminal Justice Board Plan Addendum 2020

Race disparity and disproportionality have been key topics for discussion across criminal justice agencies for some time, highlighted in particular by the 2017 David Lammy review into the treatment of and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals. In Hampshire and the Isle of Wight work has been undertaken over the past three years since the Lammy Review to investigate whether the findings of the national report are recognised at the local level and identify a way forward in addressing the challenges raised.

This addendum paper is the first step in formalising this work and more importantly the LCJB’s commitment to ensuring equality of outcomes for BAME individuals within our local criminal justice system, whether they are victims and witnesses, suspects, defendants, service users or our staff working across the partnership of agencies represented on our board. The long-term vision is for all partners to tackle the issues around disproportionate representation in the Criminal Justice System, drive cultural organisational change and strive to embed cultural awareness within our workforces, their structures and procedures.

As an LCJB we will look to focus on the identified recommendations throughout 2021 through our established Disproportionality Action Plan and commit to review our progress against these in our annual planning meeting in December 2021 where our new Strategic Plan will be developed with the visible consideration of fairness embedded across all areas of our work.