



# **Thames Valley Local Criminal Justice Board** **Strategy, Governance, Structure and** **Priorities for 2018-19.**

This document provides a briefing in respect of the Strategy, Governance and Structure of the Thames Valley Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) following the annual Planning Day which was held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

## **Constitution of the TVCJB**

All of the local criminal justice agencies are represented on the Thames Valley Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) namely;

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner  
Thames Valley Police  
Thames & Chiltern Crown Prosecution Service  
HM Courts & Tribunals Service  
National Probation Service  
Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company  
HM Prison Service  
Youth Offending Service  
Legal Aid Agency

The board is further supported by a local Defence representative, Citizens Advice (Witness Service) and Public Health England.

## **Purpose and Vision**

The purpose and vision of the LCJB is to reduce crime, harm and risk by increasing the efficiency, effectiveness and credibility of the Criminal Justice System. By working in partnership, the board aims to improve services to the public with the minimum costs, supported by the best available evidence.

## **Leadership Statement**

The LCJB is committed to delivering a high quality of service to the communities of Thames Valley, focussed on the needs of the individual, irrespective of background. Together we recognise that trust, confidence and equality are key factors in being able to work successfully with our communities to reduce crime, harm and risk. All staff within each organisation will play a part in that.

## **Role of the Chairperson**

Historically agencies have shared the role of chairperson between the Police, Courts, Probation and CPS lead officers. There has normally been a two year tenure period and succession has been in rotation and by the agreement of members of the Board. A collaborative, collective and committed approach to managing the work of the Board, rather than the adoption of voting, ensures mutual support to initiatives and a clear partnership focus to delivery of the purpose and vision. A deputy chair is usually nominated by the chairperson.

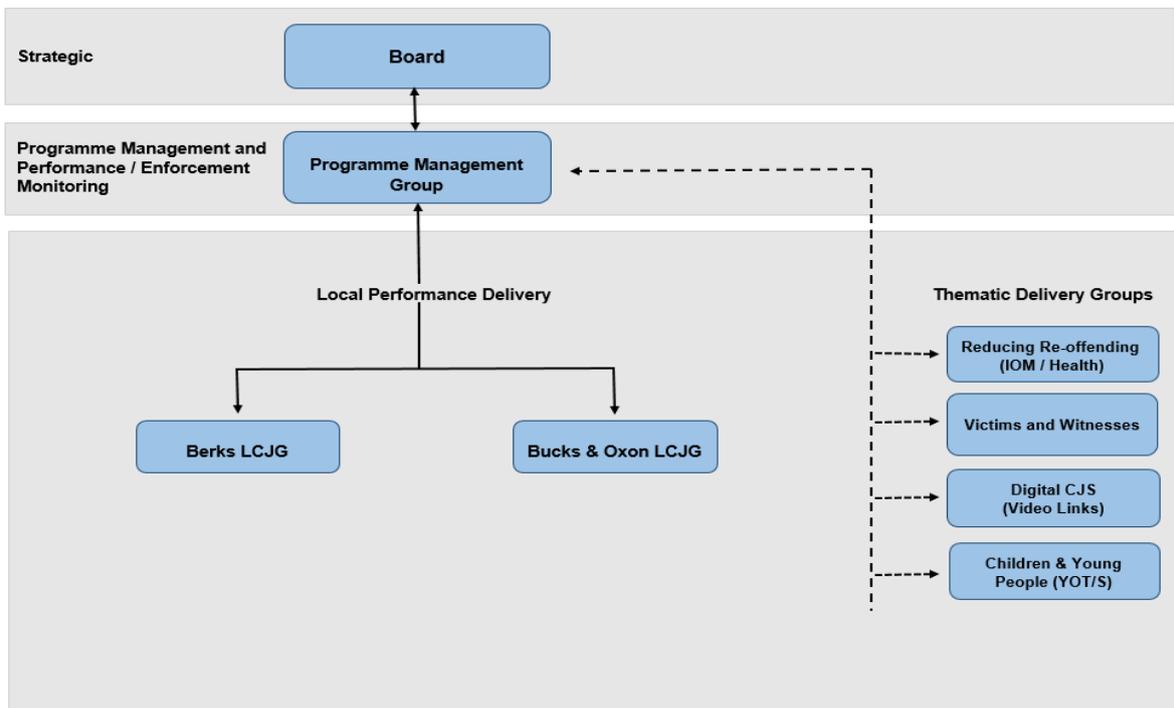
## **Priorities and Delivery 2018-19**

The Board meets 5 times a year to review performance and to consider and approve any new initiatives. Priorities are determined on an annual basis in the context of each agency's own strategic plans and the Police & Crime Plan and this year have been agreed to be:

- Delivering improvements in performance across the Criminal Justice System (CJS), particularly with regard to increasing the proportion of effective trials.
- Identifying and creating efficiencies across the CJS including the delivery of digital working by all agencies and working with as little paper as possible.
- Improving victim and witness satisfaction and access to Restorative Justice - putting people at the centre of the CJS.
- Supporting the principle of facilitating the required Criminal Justice processes necessary to make Restorative Justice a timely, safe and efficient intervention in order to reduce re-offending and the risk of repeat victimisation.
- Reducing Re-offending - reducing crime, harm and risk by removing adult and youth offenders from the CJS, especially through the use of Integrated Offender Management.
- Improving access to health provision for offenders and reducing health inequalities.
- Supporting Children and Young People who are going through the CJS and increasing diversion from it, where appropriate.

The Board has several delivery groups, each working on a delivery plan and consisting of multi-agency strategic or operational CJS leads. The groups are responsible for delivery of improved performance, achieving the priorities in their area of business, through strong leadership, management and supervision.

### **LCJB STRUCTURE 2018**



### ***Programme Management Group***

This group has operational oversight of the whole programme of work and the performance of the criminal justice agencies. It reviews the work of the local (county-based) groups and the thematic delivery groups and reports back to the board's strategic leads with its recommendations.

### ***Digital CJS Thematic Delivery Group***

Within the national programme, the group will effectively deliver digital working locally. Key business areas are:

- The transfer of digital evidence and case material to enable the CJS to operate with minimal paper (in and out of the courtroom).
- Embedding TSJ (Magistrates Courts) and BCM (Crown Courts).
- The increased use of video links to reduce the amount of court attendance by victims, witnesses and offenders.

### ***Victims and Witnesses Delivery Group***

This group will oversee victim and witness processes to ensure that the quality of customer service given is compliant with the Code of Practice for Victims and the Witness Charter. Maximising the attendance of victims and witnesses will be a high priority, either in person or by video link, in addition to reducing unnecessary attendance and costs.

Thames Valley LCJB is committed to supporting victims to access RJ at all points in the CJ System. Such provision should be available throughout Thames Valley, operate in accordance with nationally specified standards and meet the needs of both victims and offenders. The CJS agencies commit to facilitating the required CJ processes to make RJ a timely, safe and efficient intervention, to reduce re-offending and the risk of repeat victimisation.

### ***Reducing Re-offending Delivery Group***

On behalf of the Thames Valley LCJB and Thames Valley Community Safety Partnerships, the group provides strategic direction to all Integrated Offender Management (IOM) activities to deliver an end-to-end offender management model. The group has established a Reducing Re-offending framework that is being supported by Local Authorities and emphasises the need for Integrated Service Delivery at all levels. It equally provides encouragement to increase support for IOM by all partner agencies.

A decision at the LCJB Planning Day was taken to merge the Health and Justice Priority work into that of the Reducing Re-offending Group. This group is therefore specifically developing partnership work between health and justice professionals, including commissioners and providers. Service provision has been mapped to maintain clear pathways of support for service users with issues relating to drug and alcohol misuse, mental health and learning disabilities. A Needs Assessment has been developed to help reduce re-offending and negate health inequalities by improving access to local health provision.

### ***Youth Justice***

The Youth Offending Team Managers meet regularly and are supporting the LCJB focus on the needs of Children & Young people in the CJS. The focus of the group is to reduce first time entrants and re-offending, take steps to de-criminalise looked after children and support youth justice.

### ***Local Criminal Justice Groups***

The Local Criminal Justice Groups operate on a county basis, bringing local CJ partners together to deliver improvements to local performance and consider local delivery requirements in support of the LCJB priorities.