

Operational Performance Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 9 March 2023 by Microsoft Teams

Present:

Stephen McGowan	Deputy Crown Agent – Serious Casework (Chair) (DCA)
Laura Buchan	Procurator Fiscal, Specialist Casework (LB)
Kenny Donnelly	Procurator Fiscal, Policy and Engagement (KD)
Ruth McQuaid	Procurator Fiscal, Local Court (AL)
Andrew Laing	Procurator Fiscal, High Court (RMcQ)
Graham Kerr	Head of Business Management Local Court (GK)
Lana Thomas	PA DCA – Serious Casework (Secretariat) (LT)

Apologies:

Fiona Roberts -Head of Management Information Unit

1. Welcome and Apologies

The DCA welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of last meeting were agreed and can be published.

3. Outstanding actions

Action 6/22: Recovery Mapping – ongoing

Action 7/22. Progress of Stats/KPI's- ongoing

Action 8/22. Clearance of minutes for approval- on going Kenny to produce paper

Action 9/22 Personnel from LC & SC to be included in forensic network -Complete
Can be closed

Action 10/22 Risk Champion for Forensic Network- Complete- can be closed

Action 11/22 Terms of reference to be circulated-Complete-can be closed

Action 12/22 Group to submit views on Victim Impact Statement- Complete can be
closed

Action 13/22 Group to streamline stats and data provided-Complete can be closed

OPC

09/03/2023

4. Monthly Stats/Key Performance Indicators

High Court (HC)

RMcQ discussed the HC paper and points of interest were-

- Performance has improved in all of the initial decision making targets in 22/23 and this is important as it reduces the risks associated with unread and unactioned SPRs
- Currently monitoring the amount of additional/late domestic abuse referrals received.
- Petition Warrants/Extradition warrants, How much information we can give victims/witnesses when a warrant has been granted. Ruth working on a paper with recommendations for via.

Local Court

AL discussed the LC paper and points of interest were-

- NICP -volume of unmarked cases down from 19k to roughly just under 16k, there is a definite downward trend.
- Summary- 34k down to 21k again, heading in the right direction.
- Solemn- Not currently meeting targets although precs down and there is cautious optimism.
- SH & J Paper from Les Brown with suggested KPI will b circulated from Andrew to the group for approval.

Specialist Casework

LB Discussed the Specialist update and points of interest were-

- Increase in deaths continues to have significant pressures on the SFIU team
- Death Investigation Improvement Board up and running, going well having a positive impact on team.

- CDIT- a significant number of additional staff are in the process of being recruited into CDIT with a significant proportion of staff joining in the last few weeks. Seven care home teams have been established within CDIT to review all of the care home deaths (and any associated worker deaths) and those teams are working along side the Hospital Deaths Team, the Custody Deaths Team and the Worker Deaths Team to allocate and review all of the deaths within CDIT. The current compliment of CDIT is 48. The resourcing bid should increase the compliment of the team from 19 members of staff to approximately 90 when all posts are filled. Work continues to fill the remaining vacancies

Policy & Engagement

KD discussed the P&E Paper and points of interest were-

- Policy resources are currently directed to responding to the impact of COVID-19 on the justice system, alongside mainstream Policy work.
- KD recently visited Enquiry point and shared feedback with the group regarding compliance on answering calls. Stats to be produced regularly to address good and bad practise once new telephony system up and running.

5. Recovery Mapping

Rolled over to next meeting.

6. Minutes for OPC clearance

All 3 minutes below were discussed and cleared by the group. Kenny will advise Stephen Ferguson that all 3 can now be referred to the Law Officers for approval.

1. proposed revised Bail Manual
2. CMIs - section 1(1A) of the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 (the 1959 Act) and section 141(1A) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988

3. extraction of data

7. A.o.b

Stephen discussed that the configuration of OPC requires to be looked at due to structural changes.

Stephen will discuss this with the Crown Agent and update the group individually on how we move forward with OPC.

Date of Next Meeting: 10 May 2023