

Operational Performance Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 5 October 2022 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, High Court (RMcQ)
Graham Kerr	Head of Business Management, Local Court (GK)
Fiona Roberts	Head of Management Information Unit (FR)
Annette McClymont	Senior BM Central Operations Unit (AMc)
Robert Tinlin	Non-Executive Director (RT)
Lana Thomas	PA DCA – Serious Casework (Secretariat) (LT)

Apologies:

Jennifer Harrower	Procurator Fiscal, Local Court (JH)
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1. Welcome and Apologies

The DCA welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were noted. DCA welcomed AMc who was attending to cover SCG Recovery and LT who has taken over from Gioia.

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

4. Monthly Stats/Key Performance Indicators

High Court (HC)

RMcQ discussed the HC paper and points of interest were-

- Reporting productivity – there has been a 19% increase in productivity in the first 5 months of 22/23 compared with 21/22. While this is good news, it was hoped that we would have seen more progress. Awaiting the arrival of staff transferring to vacant posts which should happen this month.
- Section 76s- 38% increase in the level of accelerated pleas by s76.
- Progress on old cases, down from 54% to 22 %
- RMcQ explained the issues in relation to productivity which continued to be due to inexperience. The Minimum standards were being rolled out.
- There was a discussion as to whether the current KPIs were realistic given the size of the Covid Recovery backlog.

Local Court

GK discussed the LC paper in JH absence and points of interest were-

- NICEP marking- LC working on Business Plan to bring numbers down which will involve dealing with reports that are up to 28 days old and nothing older.
- Summary Courts reducing in volume, Glasgow back to pre-pandemic levels.
- Solemn- S&J PIP plan to bring down to reasonable level
- More S&J cases to be put in recovery phase
- Summary Case Marking pilots live as of 5 September in Dundee, Hamilton and Paisley, aiming to enhance engagement with defence, strengthen witness engagement and ensure early disclosure.
- It was confirmed that there has been no change in Policy in terms of taking pleas

Specialist Casework

LB Discussed the Specialist update and points of interest were-

- LB in progress of pulling together better way paper, working in line with Ruth's KPI's
- Post-Mortem Reports are up due to reduced number of temporary admin staff
- CDIT posts to be filled
- Death Investigation paper submitted, meeting with LO's next week to discuss
- Target to focus on oldest deaths over 2 years including those associated with Mental Health issues.

Policy & Engagement

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

- Covid Recovery Act now passed and came into force last week
- The (SPSO) have completed their investigation of a complaint in relation to the provision of appropriate support in a case. The SPSO’s final decision was issued on 26 September 2022. The SPSO upheld the complaint. RMcQ to work with KD on response and discuss whether the policy needs adjusted
- Improving Victim Experience which came from Lady Dorriens report is a significant piece of work and will require a steer from the LO’s
- Bill on retained EU Law potentially huge piece of work, need to ensure legislation is in place eg could have a consequential impact re driving hours/tachographs

5. Recovery Mapping

Rolled over to next meeting.

6. AoB

Stephen discussed with the group that minutes from Policy are being sent to SET to clear at their meetings and whether this is the right place for it, possibly sits better at OPC as the clearing house, conversations took place and KD informed the group that Anthony McGeehan is looking into this and will provide a note on options.

Date of Next Meeting: 3 November 2022