Cleveland & Durham Local Criminal Justice Partnership

PLAN 2018 - 2021









































Foreword from Ron Hogg and Barry Coppinger

The Local Criminal Justice Partnership for Cleveland and Durham brings together agencies with responsibility for delivering criminal justice services across our areas. The criminal justice landscape is complex and multi-faceted - 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 in the most efficient and effective way possible, to improve outcomes both for victims of crime and people who offend.

Here in Cleveland and Durham there is a real willingness for partnership working. Following a review of the Criminal Justice Board, it was agreed that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and the Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner would work together to pursue a vision for an end to end criminal justice system that discourages silo working and delivers positive outcomes for victims as well as preventing offending and reoffending.

As part of this review, a small, joint collaborative criminal justice team has been formed to work across both Cleveland and Durham. The team will work in support of the Partnership as a whole and undertake in-depth analysis to better understand how to improve services collectively as well as harnessing opportunities to develop local innovation.

Partnership working is crucial if there is to be real lasting change. We are collectively committed to making this Partnership visible, accountable and

influential locally and nationally. Our Criminal Justice Partnership values the relationships we have developed, acknowledges the need for greater connectivity and joint working, and will be accountable through a collective performance framework. We know that this plan will help us to achieve this exciting and ambitious vision.

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Ron Hoga

Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Coppinger



The vision statement

"County Durham, Darlington and Cleveland are areas where people have confidence in a local criminal justice system which supports victims, rehabilitates offenders and reduces reoffending, and delivers value for money.

We will achieve this by taking a whole-system approach so that by 2021 we have an end-to-end local criminal justice system, which operates effectively across organisational boundaries and supports an independent judiciary, to deliver seamless services and positive outcomes for victims, witnesses and people who offend, alongside the effective and efficient delivery of justice.

The local criminal justice system will play a key role in keeping communities safe, supporting positive social outcomes, preventing harm and reducing demand on services, and growing the local economy."

Commitment to working in partnership

Whilst recognising the different roles which we all play in the system, the constraints we face, and our operational independence, we are committed to working together in partnership in pursuit of our shared objectives, and collaborating for the good of the system as a whole, so that we can best deliver for our local communities:

- We will seek to harness opportunities from national changes in legislation and policy, and will not be restricted by our organisational boundaries;
- We recognise that we are providing services for local communities and that

they are best served by a local system which operates as a whole;

- We will share the wealth of information which we collect and hold so that we can quickly identify issues and work together to solve them;
- We will seek support from other partners who can help achieve our objectives, including local authorities and the health service;
- And, given that we share the same aims and objectives, we will wherever possible look to work in partnership to commission services which support those aims.

The Partnership Board has lead representation from all the statutory criminal justice agencies, and is chaired by the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland.

How we will work together

The partnership has agreed its priority outcomes as reduced reoffending and intergenerational offending, providing positive outcomes for victims and witnesses through the criminal justice process, and ensuring high public confidence in the system. These will be achieved through efficient and integrated end to end services for supporting victims, witnesses and those who have committed offences in the local area.

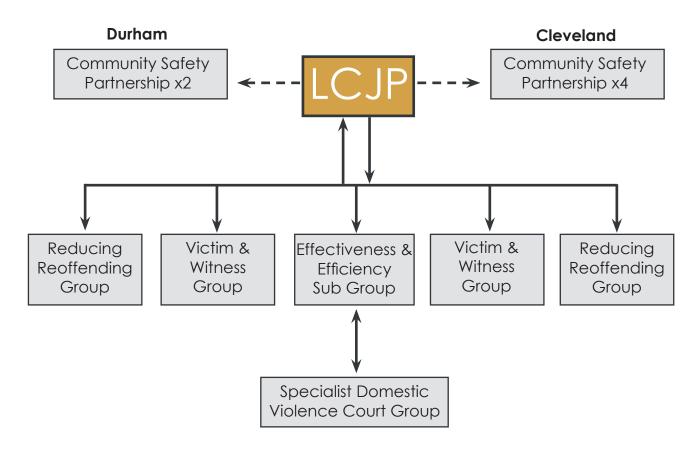
By fulfilling the commitment set out above we will be able to:

- Recognise and harness new opportunities;
- Communicate with each other and the local communities in order to promote success and increase public confidence;
- Develop a joint performance framework which will allow us to better understand where there are opportunities to make improvements in service delivery.

The partnership will have service representation from agencies which form part of, or support the Local Criminal Justice System and will identify priorities in line with nationally set targets. However we will apply specific understanding of how these translate to the local area and link to local practices and issues, as well as highlighting opportunities and risks to business through any developing

national initiatives.

The partnership will support the independence of the judiciary whilst establishing the means to engage in meaningful conversation with them.



Local Criminal Justice Partnership objectives:

- An end-to-end service for supporting Victims and Witnesses, so that they:
- Receive they support they need to cope and recover from the impact of the crime
- Are supported to provide their evidence before and at court so that justice is delivered both fairly and effectively: this will include support with advocacy and navigation through the court process as well as making full use of technology;
- Where appropriate, feel involved in the ongoing sentencing and rehabilitation of those people who offend so that they can continue to recover from their experience;
- Are not passed from one agency to another without good cause;
- Receive tailored support based on individually assessed need.

- An end-to-end system for rehabilitating offenders and reducing reoffending so that those who offend:
- Are challenged to accept responsibility and change their offending behaviour;
- Have any underlying causes of their offending identified, and are provided with access to specialist services to help to resolve those issues – including drugs, alcohol, relationship and emotional support, and mental health - as early as possible in the system and throughout;
- Gain opportunities to improve their skills and employability, and have access to work upon completion (or as part) of their sentence, so that their offending stops and they contribute to the local economy and community;
- Are provided with access to settled and safe accommodation, particularly vulnerable people who offend;
- Receive integrated support from agencies so that the public are kept safe;
- Are offered effective rehabilitation as part of any punishment.

- The most efficient and integrated local criminal justice system in the country so that agencies:
- Provide good value for money to taxpayers and local communities and work to eradicate waste;
- Work together to monitor their own performance and resolutely resolve issues;
- Recognise the impact that one service has on another and see solving problems as a shared responsibility;
- Harness the opportunities of reforms and freedoms, nationally and locally, to take new and innovative approaches in pursuit of our overall objectives.

County Durham, Darlington and Cleveland Local Criminal Justice Partnership - Strategy on a Page (2017-2021)

Vision: County Durham, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees are areas where people have confidence in a local criminal justice system which supports victims, rehabilitates offenders and reduces reoffending, and delivers value for money

Outcomes

Positive Outcomes for Victims and Witnesses Reduced Intergenerational and Repeat
Offending

High Public Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

Objectives

An end-to-end service for supporting victims and witnesses An end-to-end system for rehabilitating offenders and reducing reoffending The most efficient and integrated local criminal justice system in the country

What do we need to be good at? (Our Core Deliverables)

Delivery of effective services for victims and witnesses

- . Evidencing positive outcomes for victims and witnesses
- Assessment and allocation of individual support packages for vulnerable victims
- Targeted and outcome focused support for all victims to enable effective participation in CJ processes
- · Developing and promoting victim/witnesscentred practice

End-to-end approach for the rehabilitation of offenders and reducing reoffending

- Identification of underlying causes of offending and reoffending
- Provision of targeted and desistance based interventions in order to prevent offending and reoffending
- Effective use and completion of sentences and interventions

End-to-end approach to efficient resource allocation

- Improved efficiency in the transfer and management of cases between agencies
- · Identification of emerging priority issues,
- · Reduction in cracked and inefficient trials
- Seamless service delivery for all those coming into contact with the CJS

What will help us achieve our objectives? (Enabling Factors)

Partnership working

- · Promoting success in order to increase public confidence
- Understanding of partner agency roles and performance indicators
- Harnessing partnership opportunities, nationally and locally to take new and innovative approaches
- Improved and clear communication with internal/external partners and the community

Assessment of CJ Performance

- Developing and maintaining an integrated performance framework across the CJS
- Deeper analysis of data to better understand opportunities for improvements in service delivery
- Analysis of local data against National performance indicators
- Identification of trends and risks to inform business planning and commissioning of services

Problem solving

- Improved and clear communication
- · Clear direction to and support from sub groups
- Evidencing positive outcomes for victims and appropriate rehabilitation for those who offend
- Horizon scanning to support innovation and new initiatives
- · Jointly managing impact of national initiatives

Effectiveness and efficiency

'Efficiency in the CJS'¹ recognised that inefficiencies are created where individuals and organisations do not get things right first time, and problems are compounded because mistakes often occur early in the life of a case and are not corrected. In order to achieve the vision of having the most efficient and integrated local criminal justice system in the country, the effectiveness and efficiency work stream will ensure that there is end to end coordination across all statutory CJ agencies in relation to:

The development of a local performance framework, which is supported and contributed to by all partners, will be key to delivering improved outcomes. It will highlight areas of good practice and concern as well as opportunities for further research, in order to improve our understanding of specific issues. With the help of available national data the group will seek to learn from those areas that have been able to implement positive changes and will seek help from the other sub groups to support CJS processes.

- Case file quality and preparation, focusing on a continued reduction in the number of cracked and ineffective trials;
- The transfer and management of cases between agencies;
- Development and implementation of simplified and secure digital processes from charge through to sentence; harnessing the opportunities which this brings for efficiency and enhancing the victim and witness experience of the criminal justice process;
- The development and promotion of victim/ witness centred practice including access to justice for vulnerable groups.



¹ Efficiency in the Criminal Justice System: Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, National Audit Office, March 2016. https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Efficiency-in-the-criminal-justice-system.pdf

County Durham, Darlington and Cleveland Effectiveness and Efficiency Strategy on a Page (2017-2021)

Vision: "The most efficient and integrated local criminal justice system in the country"

Outcomes

Swift, effective and thorough CJS processes

Increased public confidence in the CJS

Provide value for money to taxpayers and local communities

Objectives

Monitor performance and resolve issues across the CJ partners

Harness opportunities to take new initiatives, nationally and locally, in order to develop innovative approaches

Maximising efficiency from charge to court outcome

What do we need to be good at? (Our Core Deliverables)

Assessment of Performance and problem solving

- Having a performance framework which enables the identification of areas of concern
- · Having ethical basis to performance management
- · Driving work to improve TSJ & BCM performance
- · Identify and manage risks to delivery
- Work together to identify and resolve identified problems

Digitised Criminal Justice

- Development and implementation of simplified and secure digital processes
- · Sharing of information across the agencies
- · Responding to the changing digital landscape

Effective use of Resources

- Improving efficiency in the management of cases
- Recognising and seeking to address emerging priority issues
- Ensuring appropriate services for vulnerable victims & witnesses to access justice

What will help us achieve our objectives? (Enabling Factors)

Communication

- Improved and clear communication between stakeholders
- · Promoting success in order to increase public confidence
- · Recognising impact one service has on another
- · Understanding national and local priorities and initiatives

Performance management

- · Comprehensive data sharing among partners
- Enhanced analysis of data to improve performance by drilling down to identify issues
- Access to National Key Performance Indicators

Process and Accountability

- The whole workforce are aware of partner agency roles and priorities
- Understanding of key indicators regarding vulnerability and where improvements can be made
- · Delivering through Task & Finish Groups
- · Identification and removal of duplication

Victims and witnesses



To ensure that victims and witnesses receive end to end, coordinated care, this work stream will review, and where appropriate develop, the support pathways. We will also collect data which enables the measurement of victim and witness experience through the Criminal Justice process.

Identified outcomes for the group are to ensure that victims and witnesses are able to cope and recover from their experience and that they are able to engage with the CJS in a positive way.

The group has three objectives in the delivery of these outcomes, namely:

- Provision of coordinated end to end care and support;
- Delivery of positive outcomes for victims, based upon an individual assessment of need;

• Enabling the voice of the victim to be heard through the CJ process.

We will seek to develop victim and witness support services which are tailored to local and individual need, whilst ensuring the right services are involved at the appropriate time and the promotion of victim and witness centred practice. This will include a review of available support provision for vulnerable victims to engage with CJS processes, as well as promoting the use of restorative justice where appropriate.

Through a greater understanding of partnership roles the work stream will identify gaps and look to fill these in the provision of services across the CJS and the related pathways of support in line with the Victims' Code of Practice and the witness charter.

The development of a performance management framework for victim and witnesses across the CJS will support the work, enabling monitoring of services, comprehensive data sharing and enhanced analysis to improve performance.

The victim and witness work stream is chaired by the offices of the PCC/PCVC who jointly commission the current referral service for victims. Representation from the statutory CJS services is at a senior level but there is wider membership from those organisations providing specific services to victim and witnesses. These include local authorities, Victim Care and Advice Service, Witness Service, Witness Care, as well as representation from the voluntary sector.



County Durham, Darlington and Cleveland Victim and Witness Strategy on a Page (2017-2021)

Vision: Victims and witnesses receive end to end, co-ordinated care and support that enables them to cope and recover from their experience and participate in Criminal Justice Processes

Outcomes

Victims and witnesses cope with and recover from their experience

Victims and witnesses engage with CJS processes in a positive way

Objectives

Provide co-ordinated, end-to-end care and support for victims and witnesses Deliver positive outcomes for victims and witnesses Enable the victims voice to be heard throughout the CJS process

What do we need to be good at? (Our Core Deliverables)

Cope and recovery

- Development of victim care and advice services tailored to local need and sensitive to victim and witness experience
- Consistency of outcome based needs and risk assessment processes
- Understanding the different ways in which victims and witnesses are affected by and cope with their experience
- Cross-agency/stakeholder engagement
- Development and promotion of victim/witness centred practice

Pathways

- Understand partner agency roles and impact they have on supporting victims and witnesses
- Identify where gaps in service provision are
- Understand how different pathways impact on victims and witnesses
- Review information sharing protocols
- Improve our understanding of pathways in relation to Victim Code Of Practice and Witness Charter

Victim centred CJS processes

- · Targeting of resources based on assessment of individual need
- Increasing the voice of the victim or witness through the CJS process
- Ensuring services are available and appropriate to support vulnerable victims and witnesses
- delivering against a performance framework that reflects national, regional and local policy and guidance

What will help us achieve our objectives? (Enabling Factors)

Communication

- Promoting successes in supporting victims and witnesses in order to increase public confidence
- Improved and clear communication with internal and external partners and the community
- Aligning our priorities to strategic needs

Performance Management

- Performance framework in place to enable monitoring against outcomes, targets and delivery plan
- Comprehensive data sharing among partners
- Enhanced analysis of data to improve performance

Knowledge and skills

- Key stakeholders are aware of partner agency roles and priorities
- · Stakeholder skills and knowledge are utilised
- Increased awareness of gaps in provision to support commissioning

Reducing offending and reoffending



To reduce offending and reoffending by ensuring that adults and young people who offend are challenged and supported to desist from crime, this work stream will develop end to end support which includes prevention, early intervention and targeted intervention.

The work stream will focus on:

- developing effective pathways to support desistance, including thinking and behaviour, accommodation, employment, finance, family and relationships, emotional and physical health, and substance misuse;
- the need to have and use a full range of diversion and sentencing powers;
- ensuring that all partners understand the different roles and priorities they each have whilst exploring opportunities to be

innovative and work together;

- encouraging the whole family approach in relation to prevention and intervention;
- the development of a whole system approach to the delivery of services to females who offend;
- development of a performance framework which includes real time information in relation to current offending and reoffending trends, informing future service provision and commissioning priorities, as well as enabling comprehensive data sharing amongst partners.

In order to improve public confidence in the system, we will ensure services are transparent about those things we are doing well and those which require improvement. We will improve communication and visibility with internal and external partners and the local community.

Each of our local authority Community Safety Partnerships already have reducing offending within their own priorities, and also recognises the impact which early intervention can have in diverting individuals away from offending.

The reducing reoffending work stream will be supported by senior representatives from the local CJS agencies.

However, many of the services which can help to reduce offending and reoffending are not provided by the core criminal justice services, and therefore we will have wider representation from local authority children's services, alcohol and drug service commissioners, employment and training providers, anti-social behaviour teams, accommodation providers, and health — including liaison and diversion.

County Durham, Darlington and Cleveland Reducing Reoffending Strategy on a Page (2017-2021)

Vision: Partners implement the most effective and efficient measures to ensure that adults and young people who offend are challenged and supported to desist from crime in order to improve life chances and keep communities safe.

Outcomes

Prevent Intergenerational Offending

Prevent Repeat Offending

System Goal

Deliver reducing reoffending services across County Durham, Darlington and Cleveland by developing a desistance and strengths based whole family approach

Objectives

Identify those at risk of offending and ensure appropriate support is in place to break the cycle of intergenerational offending

(Prevention)

Implement early intervention strategies with the aim to divert individuals from the Criminal Justice system and promote positive outcomes for victims

(Early intervention)

Ensure critical pathway evidence informs needsbased solutions using integrated offender management principles

(Targeted intervention)

What do we need to be good at? (Our Core Deliverables)

Effective Pathways

- Building our "Think Family" approach for offenders and their families
- Using and improving pathways to enable effective intervention throughout the criminal justice process including integrated offender management
- Understanding where gaps in service provision are, across the whole system, and working in partnership to fill them
- Develop an improved understanding of the needs profile of females who offend

Restorative Justice (RJ)

- · Supporting the development and use of the RJ Hub
- Ensuring restorative approaches are used when working with people who offend
- Embedding the work of the RJ Hub among partner agencies
- Engaging with volunteers where appropriate and developing their skills
- Developing and promoting victim involvement within restorative practice

Use and completion of sentences / orders

- · Using full range of diversion and sentencing powers
- Rehabilitative and safe use of custody / prison
- Raising awareness of the links between re-offending and sentencing
- Ensuring those offenders posing highest risk to the community are within scope of IOM arrangements
- Working in partnership to deliver range of desistance provision for offenders and families

What will help us achieve our objectives? (Enabling Factors)

Communication

- Improved and clear communication with internal / external partners and the community to be able to respond appropriately
- · Aligned community priorities to strategic needs
- Promoting successes in reducing re-offending in order to increase public confidence
- Ensuring effective information sharing protocols

Performance Management

- Performance framework to enable monitoring against outcomes, targets and delivery plan
- Improved timeliness of re-offending data
- Enhanced analysis of data to improve performance by drilling down to identify issues
- · Comprehensive data sharing among partners

Knowledge and skills

- The whole workforce are aware of partner agency roles and priorities
- Partner agency skills and knowledge are utilised
- Understanding how different pathways and RJ impact on offending
- Understanding partner agency roles and impact they have on reducing re-offending

Performance Management

Measuring whether the criminal justice system is achieving its many objectives is not straightforward. The incentive in one part of the Criminal Justice System can limit the achievement of the aims in another.

All agencies are committed to providing the data which will allow us to create an integrated performance framework, and we will look to remove any barriers which could prevent us from achieving this. Creation of a performance framework for each of the work streams is a priority in order to increase transparency and improve outcomes.

Available national data ² identifies regional variations in the performance of the CJS and provide evidence that there is scope for efficiency gains.

The Working in Step report ³ made the following two recommendations to the national board, and we will work to progress these themes whilst also responding to our local needs:

 "The national Criminal Justice Board should consider what does good look like and regularly review performance at a level sufficient to identify good practice. Unlike many other areas of government, there is granular performance data available for many aspects of the system. Identifying and exploring regional variations in performance will highlight innovative practice, as well as giving organisations across the system incentives to improve."

Locally we will use national data in order to identify a base line for quality which allows us to compare ourselves with other areas in the country and especially with those where improvements or innovations appear to be having a positive impact on CJ performance. However we will also seek to improve services beyond that of the baseline, both in terms of quantitative assessment and quality of delivery.

 "The National Criminal Justice Board should establish mechanisms to increase transparency and encourage feedback through the system. This is particularly important where one element of the system has a direct but discretionary impact on another."

Locally we will report publicly on whether the set targets for performance are being met in line with the objectives set.

https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/working-in-step-a-joint-inspection-of-local-criminal-justice-partnerships/

² Efficiency in the Criminal Justice System First Report of Session 2016-17, House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts, May 2016 https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmpubacc/72/72.pdf

³ Working in Step? a joint inspection of local criminal justice partnerships by HMIC, HMCPSI & HMI Probation, Oct 2015

Funding and commissioning

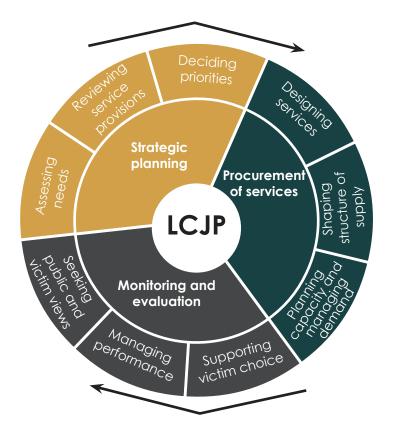
Government provision of statutory
CJS services is enhanced by localised
commissioning and funding. By working
in partnership, local commissioning can
empower communities and victims of crime.
We can innovate and work together to tackle
and prevent crime at its source and applying
resources intelligently to secure positive
outcomes and value for money.

Our aim therefore when addressing funding issues or commissioning new services will be deciding how to use the total resources available in order to achieve agreed outcomes in the most efficient, effective and sustainable way.

The commissioning process will follow a plan, do, and review cycle and include ⁴

- Understanding the needs of our communities by ensuring that we engage with the full range of partners and stakeholders;
- Consulting potential provider organisations, including those from the third sector and local experts, well in advance of commissioning new services and working with them to set priority outcomes for that service;
- Putting outcomes for users at the heart of the strategic planning process;

- Mapping the fullest practical range of providers with a view to understanding the contribution they could make to deliver those outcomes;
- Ensuring processes are fair and transparent;
- Facilitating long-term contracts and risk sharing, wherever appropriate, as ways of achieving efficiency and effectiveness;
- Seeking feedback from service users, communities and providers in order to review the effectiveness of the commissioning process in meeting local needs.



⁴ Successful Commissioning Toolkit, National Audit Office, 2011 https://www.nao.org.uk/successful-commissioning/

Evidence base and the case for working together to improve the system

Effectiveness and efficiency

Transforming Criminal Justice ⁵ is a strategy based on the simple premise that all parts of the CJS should be working towards achieving the same set of outcomes:

- A swift, determined response to crime;
- Treatment of victims and witnesses with the care and consideration they deserve;
- Better value for money for the tax payer.

The National Audit office review of "Efficiency in the CJS" ¹ reported a number of national issues regarding the efficiency of the CJS which are replicated locally:

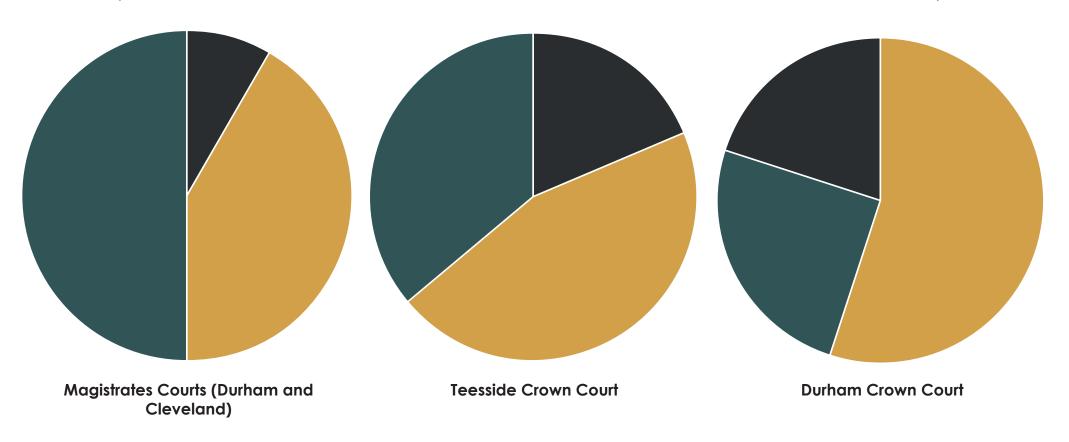
- Delays are getting worse against a
 backdrop of continuing financial pressure.
 Spending has fallen and whilst there are
 slightly fewer cases entering the system,
 the complexity of cases has increased.
- There have been some improvements
 in the management of cases since 201011. The proportion of effective trials
 (those that go ahead as planned) in the
 Magistrates' court has increased and
 the proportion of effective trials in the
 Crown Court is relatively stable. This is
 reflected locally and shows a willingness to

- work together in order to seek solutions. However over a quarter of cases still collapse on the day of the trial (termed 'cracked'). This is highlighted as one of our main priority areas for improvement, both in terms of efficiency and to enhance the experience of victims and witnesses.
- Local statistics from May 2017 indicate a similar rate of guilty pleas at first hearing in the Magistrates Courts to those achieved nationally, this being 69% in Cleveland and 67.9% in Durham as opposed to 69.3% nationally. However working together to ensure appropriate guilty pleas at the first opportunity continues to be a focus moving forward.
- Two-thirds of cases still do not progress as planned, creating unnecessary costs In 2014-15 the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) funded defence counsel to the tune of £93.3 million and the CPS spent £21.5 million on preparing cases that were not heard in court due in part to non-attendance of prosecution witnesses and incomplete case files. Of 225 trials listed in the Magistrates courts in Durham and Cleveland only 94 were effective and in the Crown Courts only

- 11 of the 20 listed at Durham and 24 of the 53 listed at Teesside went ahead on the day as planned. Unsuccessful outcomes at court due to witness issues are currently recorded at 28.9% in Cleveland and 35.5% in Durham. Again partnership work in the local area has resulted in a slight improvement against the national picture but it remains a priority area for the future.
- Delays and collapsed trials damage the public's confidence in the system which exacerbates the problem - Only 55% of people who have been a witness or victim in court would be prepared to do so again.

⁵ Transforming the Criminal Justice System: A Strategy and Action Plan to Reform the Criminal Justice System, Ministry of Justice, June 2013 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/209659/ transforming-cjs-2013.pdf

<u>Proportion of trials in Durham and Cleveland that were effective, cracked or ineffective in May 2017</u>





Evidence base and the case for working together to improve the system

Supporting victims and witnesses

The National Victims' Commissioner's report "What Works in Supporting Victims of Crime" 6 acknowledged that significant progress has been made in the development and co-ordination of support services for victims of crime. However, the report also points out that services tend to reflect the historical context in which they have emerged. Subsequently, while there remains no one single agency with overall responsibility for victims, the responsibilities that Police and Crime Commissioners have to provide support services creates an opportunity to develop and co-ordinate a range of support to meet the needs of all victims in their area. The report highlights four areas in particular where there is scope to further develop support for victims and witnesses:

- Information and communication:
 Insufficient timely and accurate information and effective methods of communication with victims can aggravate the impact of a crime;
- Procedural justice: The quality of service that victims get from criminal justice professionals and associated agencies is

- often a more important factor in victim satisfaction than the final outcome of their case;
- Multi-agency working: Partnership working across statutory and voluntary sectors can provide effective support for victims in terms of information sharing and encourage victims to remain engaged with the CJS;
- Professionalism of victims' services and a single point of contact.

The allocation of some MoJ funding to PCCs for the commissioning of victim services has allowed for the development of greater coordination of those services and local delivery.

Following a review of national provision and a consultation process which included victims of crime, a new local referral service (Victim Care and Advice Service- VCAS) has been commissioned.

This new service works closely with police staff to ensure victims have an increased awareness of the independent offer of support and reports from the first year of delivery across Cleveland and Durham show that 3,924 needs assessments have been completed.

Of those receiving ongoing support there were significant improvements in the assessment of need at the commencement and end of the support period. During 2016/17 police victim satisfaction levels were 87% in Durham and 83% in Cleveland. Whilst these figures are positive there is limited available data across the CJS which can evidence the victim's ability to cope and recover from the crime or the quality of service which a victim receives across all criminal justice agencies.

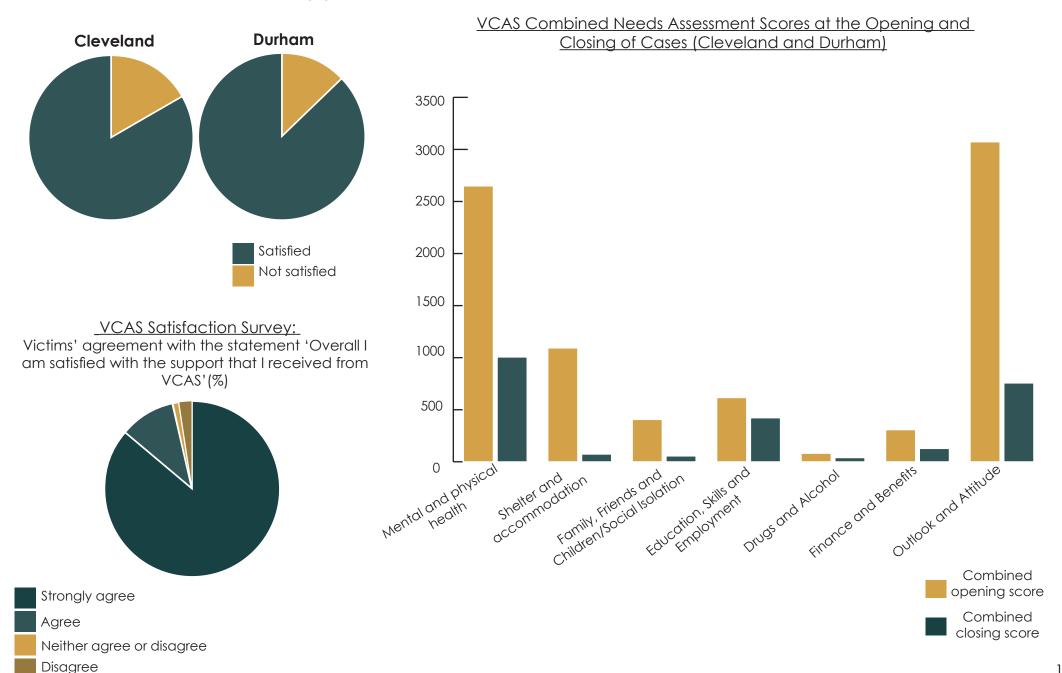
Furthermore, whilst victims generally report high levels of satisfaction with the services with which they come into contact 55% say they would not attend court again.

⁶ What works in supporting victims of crime: A rapid evidence assessment, Victims Commissioner,

March 2016

https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/ victimscomm-prod-storage-clhgxgum05k1/ uploads/2014/10/What-works-in-supporting-victimsof-crime.pdf

Police Victim Satisfaction Levels for Durham and Cleveland 2016-17 (%)



Evidence base and the case for working together to improve the system

Reducing offending and reoffending

Despite a slight decrease in proven reoffending figures⁷, ongoing partnership work across our two local areas and the national reforms ⁸ which have taken place over recent years, the offending and reoffending rates both nationally and locally have remained stubbornly high with 24.8% of all those who offend reoffending within a twelve month period ⁹.

Early intervention with children and young people can clearly have an impact on these figures.

Recent changes to the way in which young people are dealt with and the support offered has seen a significant reduction in the numbers of young people coming into contact with the Criminal Justice System.

However, this means that those now supervised by our local youth offending services are the most difficult to rehabilitate, many of whom have been in care, have mental and physical health problems and experience learning difficulties.

The national review of YOS ¹⁰ found that 'many of the children in the system come from some of the most dysfunctional and chaotic families

where drug and alcohol misuse, physical and emotional abuse and offending is common. Often they are victims of crime themselves'.

Recent figures from our local CRC support the fact that if not dealt with early then these factors can continue into adulthood and contribute to a cycle of reoffending which it is difficult to break from. The current caseload of the CRC reflects this with many participants being unemployed and having identified needs in relation to drug and alcohol misuse, relationship issues, financial management, accommodation, and mental health concerns. We need to ensure that our assessment of need is accurate and shared across the support agencies as well as providing appropriate support at all stages.

Supporting the work of our local children, youth and family services, securing an efficient transfer between the youth and adult probation services and ensuring that those who offend are given the right support to desist from crime is crucial if we are to see any decrease in the ever growing prison population and future offending and reoffending rates ¹¹.

⁷ Since 2004 the overall proven reoffending rate has decreased by 2.5% and for those released from custody or who received a court order by 7.1%. Source: Proven Reoffending Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, October 2014 to September 2015, Ministry of Justice, July 2017

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/ uploads/attachment_data/file/633194/provenreoffending-2015-q3.pdf

⁸ Transforming Rehabilitation: A Strategy for Reform, Ministry of Justice, May 2013

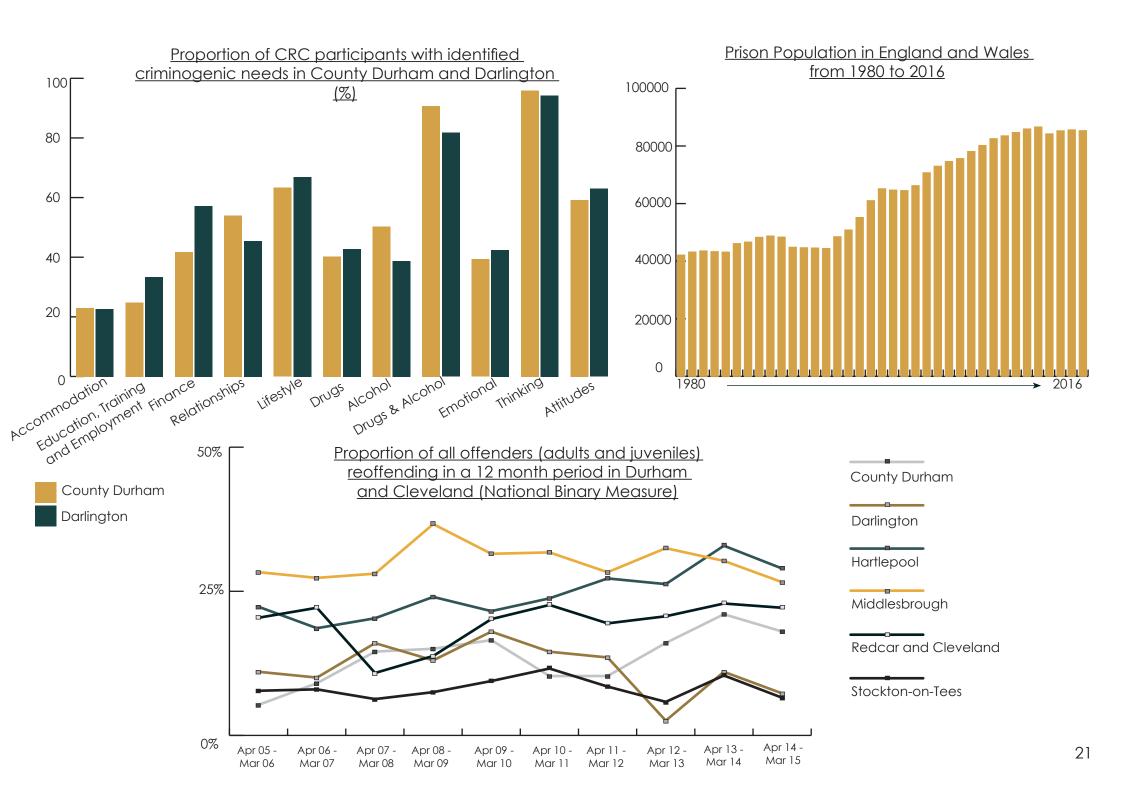
https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digitalcommunications/transforming-rehabilitation/ results/transforming-rehabilitation-response.pdf

⁹ Proven Reoffending Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, October 2014 to September 2015, Ministry of Justice, July 2017

Review of the Youth Justice System in England and Wales, Ministry of Justice, December 2016 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/

uploads/attachment_data/file/577103/youthjustice-review-final-report.pdf

¹¹The custody rate for indicatable offences has been increasing steadily from 24% in 2010 to 31% in 2017



Outline timeframe and priority work areas

2017-2018 - Implementing the review

Agree the Criminal Justice Plan and high level objectives of the partnership

Appoint the Criminal Justice Team to be housed within the PCC/PCVC Offices and prepare initial work plan priorities

Establish priorities and allocate resources for each of the key objectives

Develop a public face and communication strategy for the local criminal justice partnership and its constituent agencies – e.g. Website, social media presence and local profile through media

Agree partnership information sharing arrangements

Begin discussions around potential opportunities and processes for consultation with CJ service users

Explore opportunities to join up the local work with that of the national board

Collate information from individual agencies data collection to inform the development of a performance framework across the partnership

Work stream priorities

Effectiveness and efficiency

- E1 Identify and analyse available transforming summary justice data in order to increase our understanding of the reasons for cracked and ineffective trials, particularly the reasons why some victims and witnesses fail to attend court
- E2 Locate existing data and any gaps in relation to the experience of vulnerable groups through the CJS
- E3 Research available information regarding case file quality and transfer of data which can impact on delays and inefficiencies
- E4 Evaluate current local provision of video links in order to support vulnerable victims and improve efficiency in terms of accessibility to court proceedings

Impro	oving the experience of victims and witnesses
V1	Develop an outcome framework for the measurement of cope and recovery from crime in order to support preparation of a performance framework for victim and witnesses
V2	Conduct a review of current service provision for victim and witnesses in order to inform gaps and where the current experience could be enhanced
V3	Review services available for vulnerable groups e.g. victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, mental health, young people and hate crime
V4	Increase awareness and accessibility of Restorative Justice provision to all victims through development of multi-agency RJ hub
V5	Explore partners current collection of soft data from victims and how this might be collated to support understanding of the CJ experience
Redu	ucing offending and reoffending
R1	Conduct an assessment of pathway availability and impact for young people and adults who offend in order to inform priorities and future commissioning of services
R2	Identify available data across the Criminal justice agencies in order to develop a performance framework supporting the key objectives
R3	Review Integrated approach to supervision of prolific offenders in order to support and ensure an effective delivery model to reduce reoffending
R4	Sustain, oversee and develop the commitment to diversionary projects reducing the number of first time offenders coming before the courts
R5	Establish partnership support for the development of a whole system approach to the delivery of provision for females who offend and desistance based interventions

2018 - 2019

Review delivery of high level objectives during 2017 -18

Using shared performance data develop structured analysis of performance at board level to inform future priorities and areas of improvement

Review complaints and scrutiny processes and identify opportunities for shared learning

Explore opportunities for local flexibility which could allow for greater innovation

Ensure the service user voice is heard across the local development of CJS provision

Review and extend consultation with voluntary sector in order to inform understanding of pathway provision and commissioning opportunities

Explore opportunities for co-commissioning and participatory budgeting taking into account medium term financial plans

Explore opportunities for shared IT systems to support more effective communication

Work stream priorities

Effectiveness and efficiency

- Analyse available data in order to increase the number of guilty pleas at first hearing whilst reducing the number of local cracked and ineffective trials
- Collect and analyse data relating to the experience of vulnerable groups through the CJS and ensure that this incorporated into wider discussion of the issues such as domestic violence, hate crime, child sexual abuse and other sexual violence
- E7 Ensure processes in place to improve case file quality and transfer of data between partners in order to prevent delays and inefficiencies
- Prepare for delivery of video-enabled justice to support vulnerable victims and improve efficiency in terms of accessibility to court proceedings

Impr	Improving the experience of victims and witnesses		
V6	Use analysis of collated performance data to highlight areas of concern and good practice in relation to both quality of service and achieving appropriate outcomes for victims and witnesses		
V7	Following the identification of any gaps in provision seek to fill these through partnership arrangements and increased capacity where appropriate		
V8	Review and embed where appropriate the current advocacy provision for vulnerable victims		
V9	Ensure that every victim is offered the opportunity to engage with RJ and that where appropriate interventions are delivered to the RJ quality mark standard		
V10	Agree method for collection of soft data from victims and ensure that processes are in place to share learning from across all partners		
Reducing offending and reoffending			
R6	Using information gathered from assessment of pathway availability and impact for young people and adults who offend determine priorities and future commissioning of services		
R7	Use and analyse collated performance data to support priorities and future commissioning of services		
R8	Provide governance to Integrated Offender Management approach to supervision of prolific offenders and monitor impact on reducing reoffending		
R9	Sustain, oversee and develop the commitment to diversionary projects reducing the number of first time offenders coming before the courts		
R10	Implement a whole system approach to delivery of desistance based interventions to females who offend		
R11	Implement commitments with local authorities / combined authority on employability and opportunities for employment for those who offend		
R12	Work with housing providers to improve availability of accommodation for those who offend and sustainability of the tenancy		
R13	Research local need of those who offend aged 18 to 25 and identify ways in which this group can better be supported by partners working together		

2019 - 2020

Review progress of whole-system approach to reducing reoffending and supporting victims, evaluating delivery of more integrated services, including those resulting from co-commissioning

Embed learning and act on increased understanding from shared scrutiny and complaint processes

Analysis of the performance framework embedded into the end to end delivery of CJ services

Mature provision of effective pathways to desistance at all stages of the system

Outcome measurement for victims fully developed and analysed

Ongoing development and consultation with voluntary sector

Work stream priorities to be identified by December 2019

2020 - 2021

Review and evaluate service delivery and develop specification for future term

Evidenced reduction in reoffending

Victim experiences measured in terms of outcomes and compliance with victim's code with an evidenced increase

Measurable improvements to the progression of cases through the CJS



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