

What is the purpose of a Local Criminal Justice Board?

The purpose of an LCJB is to work in partnership across agencies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System and to improve the experience of the victims of and witnesses to crime.

Boards were originally set up in all 43 Force areas by central government and received funding. They now operate as a voluntary partnership in most counties in England.

Priorities of the Nottinghamshire Board

The Board seeks to achieve improvements in the system by focusing on the following themes:

- Effective and efficient processes.
- Ensuring that the decisions of the courts are executed effectively.
- Improving the participation and satisfaction of victims and witnesses in the system.
- Tackling disproportionality of the impact of the system on different communities.
- Reducing Re-offending.

Who the members are

The Board is currently chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Paul Broadbent. Jane Geraghty, Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire Probation Trust, is Deputy Chair.

The Board includes senior representatives from:

- Nottinghamshire Police
- Nottinghamshire Probation Trust
- East Midlands Crown Prosecution Service
- Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service
- Her Majesty's Prison Service
- Victim Support
- Nottingham City Crime and Drugs Partnership
- Safer Nottinghamshire Board
- Nottingham City Youth Offending Teams
- Nottinghamshire County Youth Justice Service
- Legal Services Commission
- The Defence Community

What's distinct about it?

The Board is distinct in a number of ways:

- It is currently the only truly pan-Nottinghamshire partnership body.
- Most of its work is concerned with solving problems and improving ways of working that happen after the arrest of a suspect. This differs from most of the concerns of the Community Safety Partnerships which have a greater focus on preventing crime and supporting operational policing.
- It is also currently an executive body made up of chief officers. It does, however, work across the agencies to ensure that its work is consistent with and supportive of those partnerships which do have members who have been elected.
- It is the only partnership to include the Crown Prosecution Service and Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service.

How it works

The Board sets its strategic priorities and each of these is developed and worked through by themed Action Delivery Boards. The main Board meets quarterly to assess performance, consider performance issues which have been escalated to it, review its strategy to ensure it is still relevant, and to consider what's coming up – such as the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The attached diagram shows the groups and what they work on.

Here are some examples about what the Action Delivery Boards are tackling this year:

Effective and efficient processes

Tackling issues which affect the quality and timeliness of case files produced by the police so that they are most likely to bring cases to justice.

Digitalising the way in which case files are produced and transferred within the system - reducing time and costs.

Making the best use of court time including by reducing the number of times a case goes to court – again reducing time and costs.

Ensuring that the decisions of the courts are executed effectively

Keeping a close eye on the time it takes to **recall** offenders back into prison if they re-offend and ensuring that the most serious cases are acted on swiftly in order to protect the public from harm.

Ensuring that **warrants** issued by the Courts or the Police for failure of offenders to comply with instructions are executed in a timely way.

We are introducing some LEAN processing across the agencies to ensure that we have the best and most efficient way of doing things. We are starting by looking at these two areas, i.e. warrants and recall.

Improving the participation and satisfaction of victims and witnesses in the system

Looking at the ways in which the system can encourage victims and witnesses – for example:

- Increasing the numbers who receive familiarisation visits to the court before a trial to ensure best evidence and reduce anxiety about the process.
- In the case of Domestic Violence, looking at ways in which the burden on victims can be reduced, such as prioritising the way that cases are listed for court hearings so as to avoid hearings being cancelled.
- Increasing the use of Restorative Justice for the benefit of victims and to help reduce re-offending, including the REBUILD project.

Tackling disproportionality of the impact of the system on different communities

Ensuring that all agencies deal fairly with offenders from all backgrounds by looking at the barriers to doing so and actively removing them.

Reducing Re-offending

Developing Integrated Offenders Management for a wide variety of offenders – those we have identified as either representing the greatest risk and/or those on whom we can have the greatest impact. We are therefore developing approaches for:

- Young adult offenders as they move from youth to adult services.
- Offenders at the highest risk of causing harm – including those of Domestic Violence.
- Acquisitive Crime (not just serious acquisitive crime).

The Board also keeps a close eye on the provision of services or “pathways” out of offending which are known to have an impact on offending behaviour, such as education, employment and housing in order to provide strategic influence on the way these services are delivered.

Risks and Opportunities

The reduction of the resources that all agencies have available represent a risk to being able to do things well. The LCJB has taken the view that this represents an opportunity to look to streamline working and tackle issues together. Whilst they are focused on making improvements across Nottinghamshire, they are taking stock of the opportunities to rationalise and in some cases regionalise, in line with the work of individual agencies, such as the CPS, Courts and Police.

Further Information

Further information about the Board can be made available by contacting a member of the Delivery Team on the details below:

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Nottinghamshire's Local Criminal Justice Board Governance Arrangements

Local Criminal Justice Board

Effectiveness & Efficiency (OBTJs)

- Improve quality and timeliness of case files
- Improve effectiveness and efficiency of trials
- Digitalisation of the criminal justice system
- Increase victim and witness participation in the CJS

Enforcement

- Timely Execution of Warrants
- Timely Enforcement of Community Penalty Breach Cases
- Timely Recall of Offenders to Prison

Victims & Witnesses

- Better engagement with victims and witnesses at the initial stage / first point of contact
- Improve the victim and witness journey
- Improve communication with victims and witnesses

Race Disproportionality

Task & Finish Group

- Identify and address areas of disproportionality at key stages of the CJS

Reducing Re-offending

Develop Integrated Offender Management for:

- High risk of harm and domestic abuse
- Acquisitive Crime
- Young adults

PTPM

Joint Productivity Measure

CJS Efficiency Group

Warrants Review Team

Recall Group

REBUILD RJ Project

Domestic Violence

Witness Care

Secretariat

Perf. Measures T&F Group

Pathways out of Offending

3x Client Sub Groups