

Delivering an Outstanding Local Criminal Justice System in Durham and Cleveland

This document sets out a statement of intent by the members of the Cleveland and Durham Local Criminal Justice Board. It makes clear their vision for criminal justice in the local area, their commitments to working together, and the high-level objectives which they are seeking to achieve.

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.

We will achieve this by taking a collaborative approach so that by 2021 we have an end-to-end local criminal justice system which operates effectively across organisational boundaries to deliver seamless services and positive outcomes for victims and people who offend, alongside 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

To achieve this vision, all signatory agencies are committed to working together in partnership in pursuit of our shared objectives.

We recognise the different roles which we all play in the system, the constraints we face, and our operational independence, but will not be restricted by our organisational boundaries.

We are committed to collaborating for the good of the local system as a whole so that we can best deliver for our local communities.

We will seek to harness opportunities arising from the shared ethos and geographical coherence of our organisations, and from national changes in legislation and policy.

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 health services.

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.

Objectives

An end-to-end service for supporting victims and witnesses so that victims:

- Receive the support they need from skilled professionals to cope and recover from the crime they have experienced, including the eight identified areas of need as highlighted in the Victims' Services Commissioning framework, namely: mental/physical health; shelter and accommodation; family, friends and children; education, skills and employment; drugs and alcohol; finance and benefits; outlook and attitudes; and social interactions
- Are supported to provide their evidence before and during court proceedings, including support with advocacy and navigation through the court process – making full use of technology
- Where appropriate, feel involved in the ongoing sentencing and rehabilitation of offenders as part of their recovery from the experience
- Have seamless end to end care, are not passed from one agency to another unnecessarily, and receive tailored and specialist support based on a robust and well-funded network of services

An end-to-end system for rehabilitating offenders and reducing reoffending so that offenders:

- 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, in order to support them in refraining from further offending and enabling them to 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 keep waste to a minimum
- 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

