

Working together for *justice*

Annual Report 2006/07



SURREY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD

Criminal Justice System: working together for the public



Foreword from the chair

In my first year as chair of Surrey Criminal Justice Board I have seen Surrey continue to build on its performance and make the place we live and work a safe place. We are continuing to provide a more efficient justice system for the community.

We want to hear what concerns the public have with the criminal justice system and, with this in mind we have tried to engage with communities in Surrey increasingly. We took part in a national community engagement scheme where we consulted and listened to those who attended our programme of panel events. We also held an open day event with speakers focusing on volunteering opportunities for Inside Justice Week which saw members of the public made aware of the part they can play in supporting our criminal justice system.

The Victims Code is an initiative introduced to build on the work of "No Witness, No Justice", a nationwide project implemented three years ago which introduced many measures to improve the system for victims and witnesses. This Victims Code has seen the services we provide become even more accountable and ensure

that our performance for those who come into to contact with the system is efficient.

These are just a couple of the initiatives that Surrey Criminal Justice Board has been focusing on during 2006 to 2007. We are continuing, as criminal justice agencies, to work together to see justice being done.



Karen Page
Chair, Surrey Criminal Justice Board
Chief Probation Officer

Performance

Surrey Criminal Justice Board is committed to performing well and meeting the targets that are set for them to provide an effective and efficient service.

OBTJ – Offences Brought to Justice

Target: 17,385
Achievement: 19,043
9.54% above target

Robust investigation and charging decisions indicate an efficient justice process and this can be illustrated in our achievements.

Ineffective Trials – Magistrates' Court

A trial is ineffective when it is unable to proceed on the day, for example listed due to illness, a missing defendant or lack of court time.

Target: 18%
Achievement: 19.26% (less is better)
1.26% off target

The Courts are continuing to improve listing and it is hoped that with the Witness Care Unit offering a good service to witnesses, less trials will become ineffective due to witnesses failing to appear. Local Performance Groups are also in place to address problems should they arise in each of the four Surrey areas.

Ineffective Trials – Crown Court

Target: 15.5%
Achievement: 8.16% (less is better)
7.34% above target

Fail to Appear Warrants (FTA Warrants)

Target: 226 Outstanding FTA
Achievement: 250 Outstanding

Target missed by 24 warrants. The lowest Surrey achieved was 231 in December 2006.

Courts to Inform Police of Warrant Issue

Target: 90% within 1 day
100% within 3 days
Achievement: 99% within 1 day 100% within 3 days

The target has been met every month since its introduction.

Performance

Financial Penalty Payment

Target 89%

Achievement: 92%

Exceeded target by 3%.

POCA Volume – Proceeds of Crime

Under the Proceeds of Crime Act confiscation orders can be made to deprive a defendant of the proceeds of their crime.

Target: To obtain confiscation order volume of 18 or less

Achievement: 31

Target exceeded by 13.

POCA Value – Proceeds of Crime

Target: To obtain confiscation orders to the value £1,508,676

Achievement: £1,331,080.67

£177,595.33 below target.

PYOS – Persistent Young Offenders

Target: Arrest to sentence average of 71 days

Achievement: 74 days

Surrey missed the pledge by 3 days due to some long running cases ending in February and March.

Community Penalties

Target: An average of 35 days from unacceptable failure to comply to resolution

Achievement: 35 days

Target achieved.

50% of breaches to be resolved within 25 days.

Achievement: 60%

Target exceeded by 10%

To Increase Public Confidence in Bringing Offenders to Justice

Target: 47.7% by March 2008

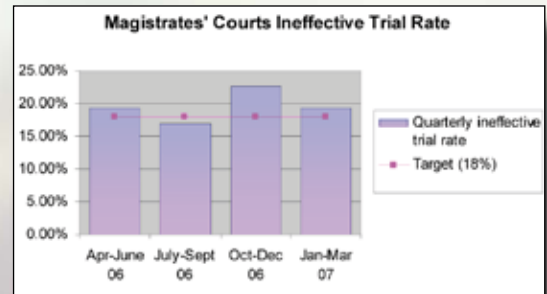
Achievement: Year to march 2007 45.9%

Target missed by 1.8%

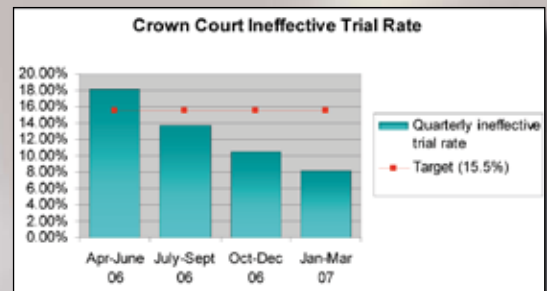
Performance against this target does fluctuate and is difficult to influence.



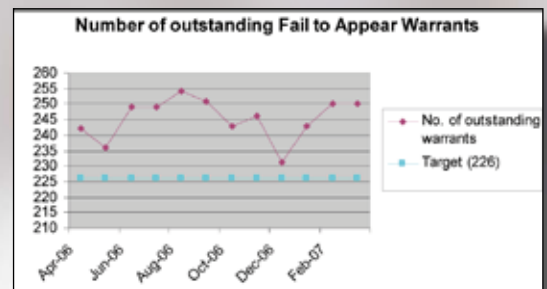
Magistrate's Court Ineffective Trials Rate



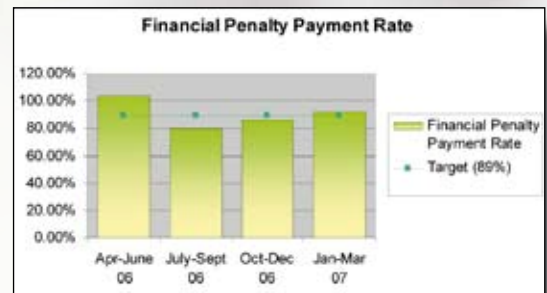
Crown Court Ineffective Trials Rate



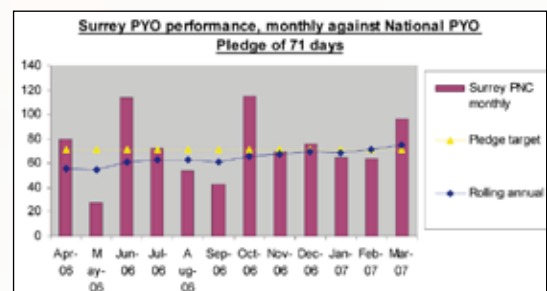
Outstanding Fail to Appear Warrants



Financial Penalty Payment Rates



PYOs



Priorities of 2006/07

During 2006/07 Surrey Criminal Justice Board has continued a joined up approach to bringing more offenders to justice, providing improved support for victims and witnesses and establishing an efficient and effective justice system.

PPOs

An example of an effective multi-agency approach is how the core CJS agencies deal with Prolific and Priority offenders (PPOs). The CJS has developed a thorough Premium Service Protocol which sets out to increase the level of service given by criminal justice agencies to deal with priority offenders who pose the greatest threat to the safety and confidence of their community. It is anticipated that if prompt and effective action is taken with the offender and they are convicted, resettled and rehabilitated the re-offending will be reduced.

Victims Code

The Victims Code came into effect in April 2006 and has allowed victims of crime to have the legal right to be kept informed about the progress of their case and make available information on local support services. All victims will be told when a victim has been arrested and why an offender received a particular sentence. It is key that the needs and concerns of victims of crime are central to the CJS. All CJS agencies have a legal duty to provide crucial information and advice to enable victims to get their lives back on track.

Inside Justice Week

Surrey Criminal Justice Board gave the public in Surrey the opportunity to get a unique glimpse behind the criminal justice system at a drop-in-day held at St Joseph's Church Hall in November 2006. It was an ideal opportunity for people to find out more about sentencing, or how to become a volunteer in the CJS as well as have the chance to ask questions about what happens if you are a victim of crime. Inside Justice Week is a national initiative which plays a critical role in illustrating to the public what an important role the criminal justice system plays.

Community Engagement Project

Surrey Criminal Justice Board took part in a project to identify how the criminal justice system (CJS) could improve the way it engaged with its local communities. The project involved linking

up with key forums and partnerships outside the CJS who engage with the local people. The project scope was to develop activities that informed, consulted and saw the public participating.

The project enabled us to become involved with Surrey Police Neighbourhood Panels, a successful forum that works directly with local people in identifying and tackling fears, issues and concerns. A series of meetings focusing on 'Crime and Justice in Surrey' ran from April to October 2006. During this time representatives from our core SCJB agencies attended three of the county's panels to explain their role and responsibility and also discuss topics chosen by the panel.

Another area the project focused upon was volunteering. The Project Manager worked closely with the Surrey Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) and Volunteer Centre Network in order to use their knowledge and expertise in the promotion and recruitment of justice volunteer opportunities in Surrey.

The Project has helped Surrey Criminal Justice Board make new links with partners. It has also helped to increase public understanding on what the Board does. The project has now ended but we will continue to build on all the work that has been put in place and engage with our community.



Contact:

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