

## MEETING OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

19 December 2014

### MINUTES

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<u>Members present:</u>	Colman Treacy (Chairman) John Crawford Henry Globe Julian Goose Heather Hallett Javed Khan Sarah Munro Katharine Rainsford Julian Roberts Alison Saunders John Saunders Richard Williams
<u>Apologies:</u>	Michael Caplan Lynne Owens Paul Wiles
<u>Representatives:</u>	Stephen Muers for the Ministry of Justice (Director, Criminal Justice Policy)  Sophie Marlow for the Lord Chief Justice (Legal Advisor to the Lord Chief Justice, Criminal Justice Team)
<u>Members of Office in Attendance</u>	Claire Fielder (Head of Office) Lissa Matthews Ruth Pope Mandy Banks Helen Stear Lisa Frost Joanne Keatley

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies were received as set out above.

**2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

2.1. The minutes from the meeting of 21 November 2014 were agreed following some minor corrections.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 The Chairman thanked Sarah Munro for attending and speaking at the Advisory Board on Female Offenders chaired by Simon Hughes MP. The presentation was well received and prompted some good questions.

**4. DISCUSSION ON PARLIAMENTARY EVENT – PRESENTED BY ANTHONY WALKER, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL**

4.1 The Council were updated on the Parliamentary event. This covered the feedback on the event from Council members, staff, the Justice Committee and attendees, as well as what worked well and what should be done differently, if the event were to be repeated. A repeat of the event would be useful after the next election with new MPs and a new Justice Committee but should be a smaller event, more targeted at those involved in sentencing matters.

**5. DISCUSSION ON DANGEROUS DOGS- PRESENTED BY MANDY BANKS, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL**

5.1 This was the final discussion on the consultation on the dangerous dog guidelines before its planned publication in March 2015.

5.2 The Council considered the changes that had been made to the draft guidelines since the November Council meeting, and the planned outline for the consultation paper. The Council signed off the guidelines, subject to minor changes to be made ahead of the consultation.

**6. DEMONSTRATION OF MIGRATED WEBSITE - PRESENTED BY HELEN STEAR, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL**

6.1 The Council were given a demonstration of the new Sentencing Council website providing members with an opportunity to comment on the site prior to it going live in January 2015.

**7. DISCUSSION ON BREACH OF ORDER – PRESENTED BY LISA FROST, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL**

- 7.1 Proposals were put forward to develop a single definitive guideline with separate guidance for groups of orders. It was suggested that the guideline could contain four groupings of guidelines with orders with similar features being grouped together. A draft guideline for offences of breaching orders which carry a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment was presented, and discussion took place regarding the harm and culpability factors and aggravating and mitigating features, with some amendments agreed.
- 7.2 The Council agreed in principle to the groups proposed, and it was agreed further draft guidelines would be developed for consideration.

**8. DISCUSSION ON YOUTHS – PRESENTED BY LISSA MATTHEWS AND JOANNE KEATLEY, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL**

- 8.1 This discussion focused on the revision of the Overarching Principles - Sentencing Youths guideline. The Council agreed to revise this into a more functional tool that sentencers can easily refer to in court. It was agreed that the Council would work alongside other bodies to complement existing guidance and to try to reduce duplication but that an overarching guideline for sentencing youths including the principles and some offence specific guidelines would be developed as a standalone Sentencing Council guideline.
- 8.2 The approach to the use of adult guidelines when sentencing youths was discussed. It was agreed that it would not be desirable to indicate that sentencers should never refer to adult guidelines but any reference to adult guidelines would need careful consideration. Further work will be undertaken and discussed at the Council in due course.

**9. DISCUSSION ON RISK AND AUDIT SUB COMMITTEE – PRESENTED BY JOHN CRAWFORTH, SENTENCING COUNCIL MEMBER**

- 9.1 John Crawforth, as Chairman of the Risk and Audit sub-group updated the Council on its work over the past year. The group had met five times since it was formed just over a year ago and considered topics including the business plan, budget and forecasting and strategic planning. At each meeting the spend against budget to date and the risk register are reviewed. It was noted that recent staff moves have limited the group's progress but that it was hoped momentum would be regained in the New Year.