

**DEVON AND CORNWALL  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD**

Criminal Justice System: working together for the public



**DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY**

**21 May 2004**

Report of the Chief Constable

**DEVON AND CORNWALL LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD  
THE FIRST TWELVE MONTHS**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Devon and Cornwall Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) had been operating in “shadow” form since November 2002, and was officially established on 1 April 2003.
2. I am privileged to have been elected to remain as the Chair of the Board until March 2005. I am pleased with the progress the Board has made towards a more ‘joined up’ service. The following achievements describe a small part of current LCJB activity.

**BACKGROUND**

3. The last twelve months have been an opportunity to form strong working partnerships between the LCJB member agencies but also with other statutory and voluntary agencies such as the Criminal Defence Service, Victim Support and the 17 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP’s) across the Peninsula. The Board has created a sound base on which to build further work to improve criminal justice in the area and is proud of the work undertaken and planned for 2004/05.

**ACHEIVEMENTS**

4. Due to data lags it is not possible for the Board to provide a complete picture of their performance over the last twelve months at this stage. However, our projections show that we can confidently say that we have met a number of our national targets including; the persistent young offender pledge, narrowing the justice gap and timeliness through Court. Whilst the LCJB has not met the challenging ineffective trial target set by national government it is important to put our performance in context. Both the Magistrates and Crown Court are top quartile performers in this area, as a result our targets were much more difficult to achieve than those attached to some of our LCJB colleagues. Although the LCJB has not met the target, our performance remains amongst the best in the country.
5. Over the next twelve months the Board will continue to work towards improving public confidence in bringing offenders to justice by 4%. I am proud to say that our plan on

public satisfaction and improving confidence was only one of seven, nationally, to receive green status under a comprehensive Home Office review.

6. During the last year, the LCJB has hosted a number of events ranging from large-scale conferences on the work of the Board to small focus groups on the work of CDRP's or the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) community's experiences of criminal justice. The Board has also held two events focused on improving the services provided to victims and witnesses. As a result of these initiatives, the Board has been identified as an example of good practice in terms of wide consultation and has been praised for its approach to partnership working with CDRP's and contact with the judiciary through the legal sub-group.

7. The Board has secured national funding for what has become known as the Courts and Community Justice Project. The project is led by the Magistrates Court and Probation Area and is designed to divert low risk offenders away from the Court system by offering alternatives in the community.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

8. It is recommended the Police Authority note the contents of this report.

Maria Wallis  
Chief Constable

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