



27th June 2022

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Criminal Justice system – a progress report' was published on the 17th May 2022. The Criminal Justice Joint Inspection report was raised at the recent Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) where partners were able to discuss the finding and recommendations collectively.

The report concludes the criminal justice system is still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic. I do not disagree with the report but am cognisant that many of the issues identified existed before the pandemic and work needs to be done to reduce court backlogs and deliver justice to victims in a more efficient and supportive way.

However, I echo the gratitude noted in the report for the hard work and commitment of staff and the innovative practices which were developed in order to continue to deliver services in very challenging times.

Since returning to office last year, I have focused on ensuring the Local Criminal Justice Board is fit for purpose and enabling criminal justice partners to find better ways of working with each other. As Chair, I have been able to engage partners in a cross-function survey where obstacles between agencies are being identified. Once the findings have been concluded later this month, we can begin to find solutions and overcome the challenges and work towards a more fluid criminal justice journey for both victims and professionals.

John Dwyer

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire