

THE STREAMLINED PROCESS

A SHORT OVERVIEW CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION IN THE THAMES VALLEY

The Legal Services Commission in Reading has been instrumental between October 2008 and May 2009 in engaging defence solicitors across the Thames Valley as part of the implementation of the Streamlined Process. By liaising with the Local Criminal Justice Board; Thames Valley Police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Reading Office arranged for defence solicitors across the Criminal Justice Area to become members of the Local Implementation Teams. Those Representatives disseminated information concerning the Streamlined Process to their criminal defence colleagues across the entire Thames Valley Police Area. Alongside that, Thames Valley Police arranged four training sessions for criminal defence solicitors during April and May 2009 at various venues across the CJS, prior to implementation of the process on 11th May 2009, at which 75 defence solicitors attended the presentations meaning a majority of Thames Valley firms were represented.

WHAT IS THE STREAMLINED PROCESS

The Streamlined Process (SP) is a key-supporting block to Simple Speedy Summary Justice (CJSSS), which was developed to encompass simpler processes and procedures in the magistrates' courts throughout England & Wales.

The aims of SP are to reduce police officer and administrative staff time to prepare a prosecution file.

Produce a more proportionate prosecution file to process volume straight forward guilty plea cases likely to be sentenced in the magistrates' court and;

Produce a file, which is sufficient to make effective case management decisions at the first hearing in complex or likely contested cases supporting the principle of CJSSS.

Improvement of case management and performance achieved by streamlining work in the magistrates court will reduce costs to the public purse and increase public confidence in the Criminal Justice System.

Set out below are links to the following material:-

The Director of Public Prosecutions Guidance on SP
Peer Review Document
Presentation formulated for the defence

Contact details of the Basic Command Unit leads on SP. Defence solicitors may contact the leads if they have any issues to raise concerning the SP process in their areas.