

Dear colleague,

Welcome to the latest update from the Forensic Marketplace Strategic Plan (FMSP) project, supported by Transforming Forensics (TF) and the Forensic Capability Network (FCN).

In this edition, we'll provide an overview of Chief Constables' decisions on the future of Toxicology services and our draft national procurement principles, the latest on five of our work packages, and information on how you can get involved in FMSP.

You can read previous updates [here](#). And please do share our updates with relevant colleagues in your organisation.

### Toxicology services and Procurement Principles

[Last time](#), we told you that we'd developed an Outline Business Case (OBC) laying out options for future delivery of Toxicology services, along with draft national principles to reshape how forensic services are procured. These were discussed at FMSP Project Board in January and subsequently fed back on by FMSP Board members, their forces and regions. We received a range of feedback, which we used to help shape the final versions of the OBC and principles. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts.

We took the OBC and principles to Chief Constables, regionally and then at Chief Constables' Council in March, making two key recommendations:

- **We move to national contracting arrangements for Toxicology**, delivered via FCN, using a standard rate card at sustainable pricing with contract awards allocated across multiple providers. Force involvement in the national arrangements would be optional
- **We formalise and embed the procurement principles**. FCN Commercial would take the lead in developing this work

At both regional and Council level, a majority of Chief Constables supported our recommendations. Following additional discussion with three regions/forces who expressed some reservations, Chief Constables have confirmed they are happy for us to take both recommendations forward.

We're delighted with this decision as the recommendations will help to make the forensic marketplace more stable and resilient and our shared approach to the market more consistent, standardised and sustainable. It's also a great example of the forensic community coming together to take collective action around a pressing issue. Potential future options were developed through a community-led work package shaped by the views of a wide range of stakeholders. And policing was consulted on every aspect of the decision-making process. We're grateful to everyone who has played a role in this.

### Next steps

We have now started work on next steps for the recommendations, with a view to putting the national contracting arrangements in place by March 2022 and embedding the procurement principle in the next round of forensic procurements.

In the coming weeks, we will be hosting virtual events for forces and forensic service providers to talk through the recommendations in more detail and what the next steps will entail, and to answer any questions attendees may have. More on these in due course.

We'll also be reviewing the process for reaching such decisions to see if there are ways to make it more efficient and effective.

### Niche Services work package: ecology services evaluation

The Niche Services work package team, led by Emily Burton from GMP, have developed eight potential future service delivery options, which will be evaluated by an independent panel on Thursday 17th June, 14.00-16.00. If you are

from a policing background and would like to join the panel, we would love you to come along. Reading material, including background document and options papers, will be circulated in advance.

To prepare for the evaluation session, Emily will also be hosting a Bitesize virtual event on Monday 14th June, 12.30-13.30, where she will give an overview of the work package and options. While the event is primarily for the evaluation panel, we're really happy for anyone in policing to join us. Similarly, attendance at the Bitesize isn't mandatory for panel members as we'll be recording the session and sharing it prior to the 17th.

Express your interest in the events and ask questions to [Emily](#) by 4th June.

A separate session to gather feedback from service providers is also being organised.

### Other work package updates

We're making excellent progress on our other work packages, including:

- **Drugs:** Following evaluation of the potential options for future delivery developed by Dean Ames from the Metropolitan Police Service, and his work package team, the three highest scoring options were presented to FMSP Project Board in April and will now be taken forward for full options appraisal. These options are:
  - Option 1 – Nationally Contracted Lines
  - Option 7 – Nationally Contracted Lines + Mobile Drug Analysis (MDA) + Evidential Drug Identification Testing (EDIT)
  - Option 8 – Nationally Contracted Lines +Rapid Drugs Service (RDS) +MDA/EDIT
- **Standardisation and Efficiencies:** We're delighted to say that Claire Millar, Forensic Services and Digital Forensics Manager, Staffordshire Police, has agreed to become the Standardisation and Efficiencies work package lead, taking over from Kirsty Potter. Claire will build on Kirsty's excellent work, and the work of interim lead Sonia Marshall, to take forward 12 recommendations for making the seizure, recording and submission of exhibits more efficient and effective. In recent weeks, Sonia and the team have translated the recommendations into a phased delivery plan, and mapped interdependencies between them.
- **Crime Stains:** the team, led by Debbie Sharp (FCN) developed eight options for future delivery for Crime Stains which were evaluated in April, with four shortlisted options discussed at SOG and FMSP Project Board in May. These will now go forwards for full options appraisal. They are:
  - Option 0 – 'As is'
  - Option 1 – 100% FSP-provided – local/regional contract
  - Option 2 – 100% FSP-provided – nationally contracted lines
  - Option 6: - 'As is' plus enhanced FINDS capability
- **Retention and Archiving:** the team, led by Alison Fendley from Forensic Archive Ltd., have completed their background work and produced nine recommendations for potential future delivery, which will soon move forward for evaluation.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in the work packages.

### Get involved

One of the great strengths of FMSP is that it is community-led, with people from right across forensics helping to drive forward our activity. But we'd like to further broaden the involvement of the community at every level of the project to ensure we have as round a set of expertise and views as possible feeding into our work.

If you would like to get involved in the work of the FMSP, either in our work packages or to help us evaluate potential future delivery options, we'd love to hear from you. Below is a list of our current work packages, their leads and teams. To find out more about getting involved, email [Alex Daintree-Blackshaw](#) FMSP Project Manager.

Thank you to Becky Cliffe and Sam Danton from Staffordshire police who have recently volunteered to get involved in five of our work packages. We look forward to working with you!

Toxicology Workpackage	Drugs	Niche Services	Crimestains	Firearms	Key
<b>Lead</b> Mark Fossey	<b>Lead</b> Dean Ames	<b>Lead</b> Emily Burton	<b>Lead</b> Debbie Sharp	<b>Lead</b> Jo Clews	<b>Lead</b> Dorset Police
<b>Quality</b> James Kendall-Milne	<b>Science</b> Carolyn Lovell	<b>Science</b> Adrienne Shaw	<b>Science</b> Paul Roberts	<b>Science</b> Adrienne Shaw	<b>Science</b> South Wales
<b>Commercial</b> Ruth Husbands	<b>Quality</b> James Kendall-Milne	<b>Commercial</b> Ruth Husbands	<b>TF</b> Sarah Smith	<b>Supply Chain</b> Julie Harrison	<b>Supply Chain</b> Bloom
<b>Supply Chain</b> Julie Harrison	<b>Commercial</b> Ruth Husbands	<b>Quality</b> Shelly Wilson	<b>Commercial</b> Darren Hamshaw	<b>Quality</b> Lee Major	<b>Quality</b> GMP
<b>Data Analyst</b> Rosie Dorontic	<b>Supply Chain</b> Julie Harrison	<b>Supply Chain</b> Julie Harrison	<b>Supply Chain</b> Julie Harrison	<b>GMP - Police Customers</b> Simon Akker	<b>GMP - Police Customers</b> West Mids Police
<b>SME</b> Prof Simon Elliott	<b>Data Analyst</b> Rosie Dorontic	<b>Data Analyst</b> Rosie Dorontic	<b>Data Analyst</b> Rosie Dorontic	<b>Commercial</b> Ruth Husbands	<b>Commercial</b> TF
	<b>Police SME</b> Jan Marshall, Neely Nussbaum, Julie Jenkins, Andrew Cragg			<b>Data Analyst</b> Rosie Dorontic	<b>Data Analyst</b> Met Police
Digital Mainstream (A)	Digital Futures (B)	Commercial Transition	Standardisation & Efficiencies	Retention & Archiving	
<b>Lead</b> Paul Greaves	<b>Lead</b> Michelle Painter	<b>Lead</b> Sue Moffatt	<b>Lead</b> Sonia Marshall	<b>Lead</b> Alison Fendley	<b>Lead</b> Fal
<b>Science</b> Shelley Wilson	<b>Science</b> Simon Cullen	<b>Supply Chain</b> Julie Harrison	<b>Supply Chain</b> Julie Harrison	<b>Science</b> Sonia Marshall	<b>Science</b> FCN
<b>Supply Chain</b> Julie Harrison	<b>Commercial</b> Paul Greaves	<b>Commercial</b> Mei Gelling	<b>Quality</b> James Kendall-Milne	<b>Science</b> Adrienne Shaw	<b>Quality</b> EMSOU-PS
<b>Quality</b> Lee Major	<b>Supply Chain</b> Julie Harrison	<b>Quality</b> James Kendall-Milne	<b>Commercial</b> Darren Hamshaw	<b>Quality</b> Adrienne Shaw	<b>Supply Chain</b> Surrey Police
<b>Transition Team</b> Gary Dixon	<b>Quality</b> Lee Major			<b>Quality</b> James Kendall-Milne	<b>Quality</b> NABCS
<b>Data Analyst</b> Rosie Dorontic	<b>Transition Team</b> Gary Dixon	<b>Data Analyst</b> Rosie Dorontic		<b>Commercial</b> Ruth Husbands	
	<b>Data Analyst</b> Rosie Dorontic			<b>Supply Chain</b> Julie Harrison	
	<b>SMEs</b> Dave Smith, Dr Jack March			<b>Data Analyst</b> Rosie Dorontic	

Get in touch

If you have any questions or feedback on FMSP please get in touch with [Alex Daintree-Blackshaw](#)