

Aberdeen Community Justice Group Meeting – Police Custody Suite, Kittybrewster, Aberdeen

28.06.2017

Present:

(AS) Angela Scott (Chair), Chief Executive, ACC
(IB) Isla Benzie, Sheriff Clerk Depute, Scottish Courts & Tribunals Service
(JC) Jason Carrigan, Inspector, Police Scotland
(CD) Claire Duncan, Lead Social Work Officer, AHSCP
(JD) Joyce Duncan, Chief Executive, ACVO
(DH) David Henderson, Civic Forum
(KM) Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive, Community Justice Scotland
(BM) Barry McNally, Team Leader, Skills Development Scotland
(AP) Allister Purdie, Governor, Scottish Prison Service
(GR) Gordon Riddel, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
(FR) Faith-Jason Robertson-Foy, Civic Forum
(BO) Bernadette Oxley, Chief Social Work Officer, Aberdeen City
(VV) Val Vertigans, Community Justice Officer

Apologies:

Derek McGowan, Head of Communities & Housing, ACC
Christopher Macintosh, Assistant Procurator Fiscal, Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service
(KS) Kate Stephen, Superintendent, Police Scotland
Neil Carnegie, Area Communities & Housing Manager, ACC
Susan Morrison, Partnership Officer, ACVO
Mark McEwan, Modernisation Directorate, NHS Grampian
Nicola Graham, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland
Fiona Hendry, Sheriff's Clerk, Scottish Courts & Tribunals Service

In attendance:

(LS) Lesley Simpson, CJSW Service Manager, AHSCP
(MF) Mark Fleming, Inspector, Custody Suite, Police Scotland
(KG) Keith Gardner, Head of Improvement, Community Justice Scotland
(GF) Gemma Fraser, Improvement Lead, Community Justice Scotland

Agenda Item	Discussions /Decision	Owner
1. Welcome / Apologies	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, in particular Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive of Community Justice Scotland, and her colleagues. Thanks were given to Police Scotland for hosting the meeting and for providing the tour for members which had preceded.	
2. Minute of Meeting on 10 th March 2017	The minute of the last meeting was agreed. Actions arising had been, or were in the process of being, completed. Representation by the ADP was still to be confirmed.	VV

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<p>3. Update from Community Justice Scotland</p>	<p>KM highlighted the need to focus on ‘prevention’ of offending and reoffending, and to take the agenda forwards as a wider ‘social justice’ issue. There was a particular need for emphasis on reducing health-related inequalities in relation to the client group. The Chair of the Group and the Sheriff Principal had welcomed proposals to try to make real innovative change to improve outcomes in Aberdeen.</p> <p>Partners and stakeholders needed to continue to raise the profile of the agenda, and also to learn from those involved in offending (or at risk of becoming involved) and their families, about what was working and what was not, in moving forwards.</p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <p>AP, LS, FR and DH to consider ways of involving ‘people with lived experience’ in the Group’s agenda. AS and AP to take this forward with the Chief Officers’ Group for Public Protection.</p>	<p>AP/LS/FR/DH AS/AP</p>
<p>4. CPA Innovate and Improve Programme</p>	<p>Members noted a report due to go to the CPA Board about Community Planning Aberdeen’s ‘Innovate and Improve Programme’ which aims to support colleagues and communities in sharing knowledge, skills and expertise to use improvement methodology and other improvement tools, which is critical to the delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26. A calendar of learning events has been arranged over the next six months, and continues to be developed, and members were encouraged to sign up for and participate in sessions of interest to ensure sufficient levels of knowledge and expertise in the use of the Improvement Methodology.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>5. Improvement Activity Progress Report</p>	<p>Members were presented with a proposed format of regular reporting on progress in taking forward priorities identified for improvement, which was in line with the format being used for reporting across the LOIP to the CP Management Group and Board. This included a one-page overview of Improvement Projects and a more detailed update on improvement activity compiled by information sought from partners. This approach was endorsed by the Group.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Ways to report on outcomes/impact for people affected to be considered.</p>	<p>VV</p>

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<p>6. Improvement Project: Referral at Point of Arrest</p>	<p>CD presented proposals in relation to an Improvement Project to pilot a system for referring individuals to relevant services at the point of arrest, including extending the range of partners co-located at the Custody Suite. A draft Project Charter was considered.</p> <p>MF, who was also on the proposed Project Team, endorsed the proposal, and a related change of culture whereby the Custody Suite would be considered as the first step of the rehabilitative pathway. Close links could be maintained between staff based at the Custody Suite and at Court in order to pick up as many people as possible. It was noted that fewer people would be coming through the Custody Suite as a result of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act.</p> <p>JD suggested that the 'Community Links Worker' approach might be helpful (as currently being implemented at GP surgeries).</p> <p>Additional issues that would need to be addressed included in relation to individuals who don't pass through the Custody Suite, information sharing, links in relation to people on the Vulnerable Persons Database, young people (under 18), and tracking/measuring of outcomes.</p> <p>A discussion took place about improving the description of the proposed improvement aim in the Project Charter. It was proposed that it would be desirable to try to address issues before people got to the stage of coming to the attention of the Police. KM suggested that this was a challenge for other partners in terms of what could be done to support this. There was potential for the Community Safety Hub to be involved, and for close working/tests of change to be undertaken in Localities. AS noted that a review of the CS Hub was to be undertaken with a view to having a more preventative focus.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>The Project Team to look at referral at the point of arrest was confirmed as CD (Lead), E Logue (Police Scotland A Division), MF (Custody Suite), S Morrison (ACVO), L Murray (AHSCP), Alcohol & Drugs Action, ACC Housing, ACC Children's Services, Principal Forensic Medical Examiner. Representation from partners to be confirmed, Project Team to be brought together to progress, update to be provided to the next meeting. Further consideration to be given to the desired focus on 'prevention'.</p>	<p>CD</p>

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7. Diverting from Prosecution	<p>A background paper on Diversion from Prosecution in Aberdeen was noted. This was a priority for improvement in the LOIP. The meeting concurred that there should be an aim to divert as many people as possible (where appropriate) as effectively and robustly as possible, taking into account risk issues. There would be a need to provide information to the public about the reasons for and effectiveness of Diversion.</p> <p>KM advised that she was keen to be involved in taking an innovative approach to taking this forward in Aberdeen, and would undertake research at a national level into the kinds of cases which are currently being diverted, cases which are not currently but could potentially be diverted, etc. Engagement with COPFS at the national case marking centre would be essential.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> KM to undertake national research.</p> <p>A meeting of key partners to be arranged to consider the aim and scope of an Improvement Project. Project Lead to be identified at this meeting. Update to be provided to the next meeting of the CJ Group.</p>	<p>KM</p> <p>COPFS/KS/CD/BO/ SCRA/KM/ Sheriffs/VV</p>
8. Locality Plan Updates	<p>A paper summarising the key links between the Community Justice activities in the LOIP and in the Locality Plans was noted.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Wider issues contributing to reducing re/offending to be encompassed in this overview.</p>	<p>VV/NC</p>
9. Engagement with Communities	<p>The approach to involving communities/'communities of interest' as proposed in the paper submitted to the meeting was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Forum and ACVO representatives on the CJ Group to contribute to the approach being taken in relation to improvement activities at meetings of the Group; • Relevant representation of communities/'communities of interest' to be invited to be part of Project Teams as they take forward improvement activities. <p><u>Action:</u> DH and FR to relay suggestions about additional community involvement to the CPA Community Engagement Group for consideration, to ensure consistency of approach across the LOIP themes.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>DH/FR</p>

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10. Future Meeting Dates / Forward Planning	The Chair advised that the next meeting would be held on 4 th October 2017, at 10-12 noon, at the offices of Criminal Justice Social Work, 74-76 Spring Garden, Aberdeen AB25 1GN. This would be preceded by a visit/tour for any members interested, from 9am.	