



## Community Justice Update – Aberdeen

Please find below some updates relating to Community Justice issues, both local and national. If you have any Community Justice 'news', issues, or practice you would like to share, or comments/queries about any of the below, please don't hesitate to contact me (Val Vertigans, Policy Coordinator, Community Justice Redesign) by emailing: [vavertigans@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:vavertigans@aberdeencity.gov.uk).

### 1. Community Justice Redesign – National Issues

---

- **National Community Justice Strategy, Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework, and Guidance:** A national event to launch the National Strategy and Performance Framework was held in Edinburgh on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Final versions of the documents can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/11/5600/0>

The Strategy includes the national Vision for Community Justice:

“Scotland is a safer, fairer and more inclusive nation where we:

prevent and reduce further offending by addressing its underlying causes; and safely and effectively manage and support those who have committed offences to help them reintegrate into the community and realise their potential for the benefit of all citizens.”

- **Community Justice Scotland:** Community Justice Scotland, the new national body, will formally launch in April 2017. It will develop expertise and provide advice to Ministers and local government leaders to strengthen how public services, third sector and other partners work together to prevent and reduce further offending. The Chair and Chief Executive have been appointed and the recruitment to further posts is underway.

### 2. Community Justice Redesign – Local Issues

---

- **Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The development of Aberdeen's first Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan, for April 2017 onwards, continues. Priority outcome areas are being developed, informed by consideration of the evidence (via the Assessment of Need exercise) and via a range of engagement with stakeholders, including: the Mapping Exercise; Stakeholder Events; input from the Civic Forum; feedback from Locality Planning events; feedback from a recent Citizen's Voice questionnaire; and briefing sessions with Elected Members. We'll be seeking your help with further consultation and engagement in the new year.
- **Stakeholder Event – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016:** Over 70 people attended the Stakeholder Event at Pittodrie on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – thank you to all who



December 2016

came along, and for your contributions. The new Chief Executive of Community Justice Scotland gave a short but inspirational talk about the fact that it was early days for her, but that she is keen for a major focus on 'prevention' in working with a client group 'on the margins of society'. Further information about the Event has been circulated with this Bulletin.

- **Governance Arrangements for Community Justice in Aberdeen:** At a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016, the Board of Community Planning Aberdeen endorsed the establishment of a governance group for Community Justice which will report directly into the Board. It is intended that the group will hold its first meeting early in the New Year.
- **Aberdeen Third Sector Community Justice Forum:** The Forum, which is facilitated by ACVO, continues to meet, and will be invaluable in providing a direct link from third sector organisations into the formal Governance Group, and vice versa. At the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December, partners discussed a common questionnaire which could be used to seek feedback from clients. This is to be piloted by Forum members in the New Year. The next meeting of the Forum is scheduled for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, 10.30 am, at the offices of Station House Media Unit, Station House, Station Road, Woodside, AB24 2WB. For further information about the Forum please contact: [susan.morrison@acvo.org.uk](mailto:susan.morrison@acvo.org.uk)

### 3. Paying Back – the Festive Way





## 4. Strengthening Engagement Project – Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum

---

### Save the date!

The Strengthening Engagement project will hold a half day collaborative workshop event in **Aberdeen on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017**. The project, which the Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum has run since summer 2015, seeks to establish and strengthen relationships between the third sector and statutory partners under the new community justice arrangements, with a particular focus on third sector involvement in the planning of and reporting on community justice.

The project will host a half day collaborative workshop event in central Aberdeen that will bring together statutory and third sector partners involved in community justice in the area, serving both as an opportunity for partners to meet one another as well as a chance to come together to work through some of the opportunities and challenges that will impact upon effective collaborative working in relation to community justice planning.

A dedicated Eventbrite page will be created once the event venues have been confirmed, with agendas to follow. In the meantime, could all those interested in attending the event or who wish to know more please contact [Chris McCully](#) of CJVSF.

---

### **## DROP-IN FOR PRISONERS' FAMILIES – CHANGE OF VENUE ##**

Further to the information provided in the last Bulletin, the Drop-in run by HMP Grampian Family Centre and Help Hub will now be held every Monday from 12 – 3pm at **Salvation Army, Citadel, Castlegate**, Aberdeen, where refreshments, information, advice and support will be available.

### **BREAKING GROUND**

A SHOWCASE OF ARTWORKS INSPIRED BY THE EXPERIENCE  
OF HAVING A FAMILY MEMBER IN PRISON

21ST JANUARY 2017 12-5PM  
@ MANY STUDIOS 3 ROSS STREET, THE BARRAS, GLASGOW, G1 5AR  
**FREE**



## 5. Did you know that .....

---

..... the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Scotland is to be increased from eight to 12. The increase will include safeguards to allow police to deal with and investigate the most serious offences involving under 12s. It is intended to implement the change in time for Scotland's Year of Young People in 2018.

## 6. Community Meals

---

Here are the dates of the **Community Meals at St Mary's Cathedral** (on Huntly Street) this month:

**Thursday 22 December at 7:30**

**Thursday 29 December at 7:30**



Please pass this information around to as many people as possible so that families know that they are welcome and invited. It is a real community spirit and people are encouraged to come along. Pass this on to your contacts for anyone who may benefit from it, especially since other services may be limited between Christmas and New Year.

---

*Merry Christmas to all*