



## 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

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- **National Community Justice Strategy, Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework, and Guidance:** Drafts of these documents have been published and can be found on the ‘Community Justice’ page of the Community Planning Aberdeen website at: <http://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/shortmedium-term-work-programmes/community-justice/>.

A national event is to be held in Edinburgh on 24th November 2016 to launch the above documents for the new model. More information about this event, and details of how to register, can be found at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/national-event-working-in-partnership-to-improve-community-justice-outcomes-tickets-27625783462>

- **Community Justice Scotland:** Scottish Government announced recently that Karyn McCluskey, currently Director of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, will take up the role of Chief Executive of Community Justice Scotland next month. Jean Couper, who was Chair of the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission, took up the post of Chair of Community Justice Scotland at the start of September.

The new organisation 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. CJS is due to become operational from October 2016.

### 2. Community Justice Redesign – Local Issues

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- **Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The development of Aberdeen’s first Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan, for April 2017 onwards, continues. Draft priority outcome areas, derived from the evidence base which has been compiled, are being considered, and plans are afoot for the consideration of these at a stakeholder event – date to be announced shortly.
- **Governance Arrangements for Community Justice in Aberdeen:** Community Planning Aberdeen’s Management Group recently agreed that proposals for the establishment of a governance group for Community Justice should be put to the Community Planning Board later in the year.



These will form part of a suite of proposals around revised governance arrangements for Community Planning, which are intended to ensure that it is effectively organised to deliver on the commitments within the new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. This can be found at:

<http://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/aberdeen-city-local-outcome-improvement-plan-2016-26/>

### 3. Alcohol and Drug Support at Kittybrewster Custody Suite

Alcohol & Drugs Action's Direct Access low threshold alcohol and drug support service was introduced into the custody suite setting from December 2015 to provide opportunistic interventions to encourage people to make changes to their alcohol and drug use.



The service is delivered in the following ways:

- Brief interventions to prevent future incidents of harm , targeting non- dependent, first time offenders;
- Motivational Interventions to encourage people to consider making significant lifestyle changes, targeting - dependent drinkers/drug users;
- Assertive follow up post release from custody for those who require additional supports, targeting - dependent drinkers/drug users/other hard to engage with groups.

Different shift patterns have been assessed for staff attending the custody suite, with a view to having coverage in place which will allow Saturday and Sunday coverage every week.

The uptake of Naloxone training has been disappointing and ways are being looked at to increase this to be more in line with expected uptake. It is also hoped that protocols to allow Dry Blood Spot Testing to take place within the custody suites will be completed soon.

#### **Case Study – Male, 22 years old, Drugs and Alcohol**

Client was seen in cells at Kittybrewster. At the time of this first contact he was using diazepam daily, drinking up to eight beers daily and a bottle of vodka three times weekly, and also smoking cannabis daily. He felt he was using more to deal with his emotions, his father had recently passed away and he was struggling to cope with this. Client has been in and out of custody suite and prison for the last few years

Several follow up appointments was made for client, all of which have been attended, he has engaged with ADA well. Since the initial meeting, client has reduced diazepam use and alcohol use, but continues to smoke cannabis and has no plans to cease use of this. Discussions have included relapse prevention, harm reduction, safe reductions, relationships, employment, groups that ADA can offer, and family issues and support required in addition to the 1:1 meetings with ADA.

Client continues to do well, is now working full time and is trying to increase contact with his young son whilst maintaining a long term relationship with a supportive partner.



## 4. Aberdeen Problem Solving Court - Update

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The Problem-Solving Court pilot in Aberdeen started on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015.

Initially the Problem-Solving Court focused on women from Aberdeen City who have multiple and complex needs, who are prolific offenders, and who are medium to high risk in terms of their needs and the likelihood of their reoffending and ending up with a custodial sentence.



Women coming through the Problem Solving Court are offered the services of Criminal Justice Social Work's Women's Centre. Although numbers have been lower than anticipated, there have been successful outcomes for a number of women who would otherwise have gone to prison.

From 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016 the pilot was extended to include males aged 16 to 25 resident in Aberdeen with a similar profile. Men will be offered a range of activities and interventions as part of a Men's Programme

Close partnership working between Police Scotland, the local authority Criminal Justice Social Work Service, the Procurator Fiscal, the Scottish Court and Tribunals Service, defence agents, and third sector partners is crucial to the success of the model.

There is an ever growing evidence base to suggest that problem-solving courts reduce reoffending, leading to increasing public confidence. Individuals benefitting from the problem-solving court approach also perceive that this type of justice is fairer.

## 5. CSCS Cards - Apex

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Apex Grampian Team has been successfully running CSCS card (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) delivery in the community and within HMP Grampian in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service. It is an opportunity to gain a recognised qualification for anyone interested in a career in the construction industry. The majority of employers ask for this qualification, as a minimum, before allowing access to a construction environment.

The training sessions take place over a number of weeks, with regular knowledge tests, leading up to the testing, which is held under strict exam conditions.

The qualification has been particularly successful within Grampian prison, where prisoners have used it to gain employment upon release. Apex has also been the first



First Women's CSCS course in SPS establishment



organisation to deliver this training to groups of women in a prison setting.

Feedback from the external testing agency Pearson Vue: *“Apex CSCS delivery in HMP Grampian, has the best pass rate from all the SPS establishments in Scotland”*.

## 6. Training Issues

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The Northern Community Justice Authority's Training and Development Officer (TDO) continues to coordinate relevant training across the seven local authority areas in the north of Scotland. The TDO will remain in post until October 2017, overlapping with the implementation of Community Justice Redesign. (After that it is anticipated that responsibility (and funding) for Learning & Development will be taken on by the new national body, Community Justice Scotland.)

The Training and Development Officer and Admin support don't just deliver training, but also facilitation, knowledge sharing, promotion of 'best practice', networking, the use of e-learning and taking a multi-faceted blended approach to professional development.

In regards to Community Justice Partnerships a day's training has been planned in Aberdeenshire with the unpaid work team and SACRO looking at how to manage aggression and anger and pro-social modelling. This course has also been offered to Aberdeen and will be delivered over two days, due to numbers, with Criminal Justice Support Workers, Unpaid Workers, Victim Support and Apex. The first date has been set for 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

A report writing course has been offered to prison staff with community and prison social work attending. This will hopefully be delivered in November 2016.

A training course on child protection and information sharing will be delivered to the unpaid work team as part of their team building day. Along with a workshop on what SSSC registration will mean in the future for unqualified workers.

A variety of training courses have been developed and anyone involved in Community Justice wishing to receive/ discuss or look at joint training needs should contact:

**Angela Paterson, Training and Development Officer, Northern CJA  
House 3, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB.**

**[Angela.paterson2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Angela.paterson2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)**

**Telephone: 01224 664248 Mobile: 07879428955**



## 7. Drop-in for Prisoners' Families

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**TEA, COFFEE, TOAST, SUPPORT, INFORMATION  
AND CHAT EVERY MONDAY AFTERNOON**

**1-4PM**

**ACTION FOR CHILDREN OFFICE**

**ABOVE CFINE,**

**ROOM 8, 2 POYNERNOOK ROAD, ABERDEEN, AB11 5RW (BEHIND UNION  
SQUARE)**

Families Outside and Action for Children are providing a new service in Aberdeen City. The service is open on a drop-in basis to family members of those going through the criminal justice system and in particular those affected by a loved one being in prison.

As you will know Monday is a busy court day and we hope you will find it helpful to send families down to the drop in for some early support and information if somebody is remanded in custody or given a custodial sentence.

Help will be offered to allow families book and where eligible claim travel expenses for prison visits as well as helping them with any emotional, practical and financial concerns that they may have. Foodbank will also be available to the drop in clients via CFINE. Children of any age are welcome and there is full disabled access. This service has no restriction on which prison the offender is in/likely to be going to and there is no restriction on where the family live.

For more information contact: Lindsay Jessiman on 07943 512378; or 01779 485829 (Family Centre, HMP Grampian)

## 8. Aberdeen Third Sector Community Justice Forum

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The next meeting of the Forum will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 2 – 4 pm, at ACVO's premises, 38 Castle Street, Aberdeen. All third sector organisations with an interest in Community Justice welcome. Please contact Susan Morrison for more information: Email [susan.morrison@acvo.org.uk](mailto:susan.morrison@acvo.org.uk), Tel 01224 686070.

## 9. Community Justice for Women in Scotland

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Community Justice for Women in Scotland is a forum to highlight some of the key issues facing women in the justice system. The aim of this site is to bring together everyone with an interest in improving the lives of women looking to address offending and provide resources and links to organisations that share these values. Follow the link to find out more: <http://www.cjwomenscot.co.uk/>