



December 2017

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 Val Vertigans, Community Justice Officer.

Email: vavertigans@aberdeencity.gov.uk or Tel: 07342 060939

If you are reading this bulletin

Please email **YES** to vavertigans@aberdeencity.gov.uk – so that I can get an indication of how many people read it. Any additional feedback also v welcome, thanks!

1. Improvement Work

Community Planning Aberdeen's Community Justice Group is driving forward a number of pieces of work in relation to the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) priority "Effectively managing and supporting people in the Criminal Justice System to reduce the likelihood of their reoffending and improve outcomes for these individuals, their families and communities."

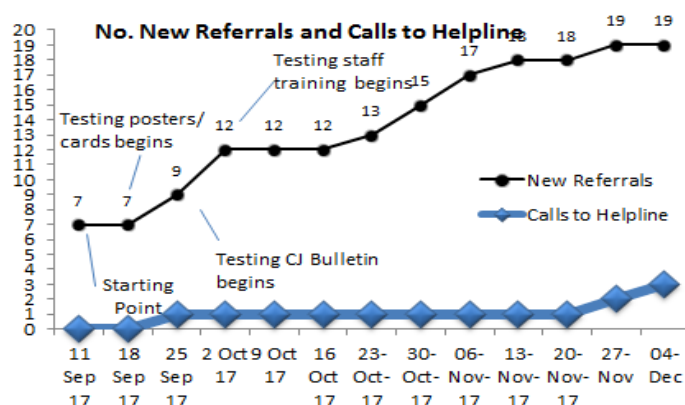
i) Referral at point of arrest

Aim: 10% of individuals are referred to relevant services (services which help an individual to address underlying issues, such as drugs and alcohol) at the point of arrest (Kittybrewster Custody Suite) by end March 2018.

The Project Team aims to test the effectiveness of direct engagement with individuals at the Custody Suite in order to collect information about issues/needs and refer/signpost them on to relevant services.

ii) Support for Families

Aim: Increase the number of family members of people in the Justice System in Aberdeen receiving support (if they wish to do so) by 100% by end March 2018



The chart shows that the Project has tested a number of different ways of increasing the number of family members referred, and there has been an impact on numbers. There has been less of an impact on the number of calls to the Helpline, however, and further 'tests' are planned to try to improve this.



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iii) Diversion from Prosecution

Aim: Increase the number of people appropriately diverted from prosecution by the Procurator Fiscal in Aberdeen by 2% by end March 2019

This project is proceeding with the support of colleagues from Community Justice Scotland. Work is currently being undertaken to clarify current processes, an essential step in moving forwards to consider ways of improving outcomes. Awareness-raising among staff working for key agencies is also planned so that people are more informed about Diversion from Prosecution and are therefore more likely to consider this as an option.

iv) Employment of People with Lived Experience

A Project Charter is being developed to take forward a LOIP priority “Appropriate pathways are in place to support people to enable them to realise and build on their potential, improve their life skills and move towards employment, at all stages of the Criminal Justice System”. This Project will be progressed in the new year.

The next meeting of the Community Justice Group will be held on 25th January 2018. For past minutes of the Group, and other information about Community Justice, follow the link to the [Community Justice page](#) on the Community Planning Aberdeen website.

2. Model for Improvement

The Community Justice Group is using the Model for Improvement to take forward priorities:

- planning for improvement using evidence of ‘what works’;
- testing new ways of doing things on a small scale, and learning from that before ‘scaling up’; and
- collecting relevant data so that there is evidence of the impact of what you are doing.

If you are already familiar with this approach please get in touch – I’m keen to share some good practice and spread the word.

To find out more about the Model for Improvement, and details of workshops and learning sessions being held across the Partnership, go to the [Innovate and Improve](#) page on the CPA website or contact communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Why wouldn't you?



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3. Unpaid Work in Action



People on Community Payback Order Unpaid Work Requirements have spent time this year constructing Planters in the Service's workshop. The Unpaid Work Team was asked to produce a large number of planters of different sizes and on a tight timescale to be placed around the city for 'Aberdeen in Bloom'. The plaque on the front of the Planter was also constructed in the workshop - the 'Butterfly' design was the winning design in a competition held across the City's primary schools.

4. Seaton Recovery Project

The Seaton Recovery Project was developed 10 years ago as a direct response to local concerns about drug and alcohol misuse. Over the years people have been supported with:

- Social and personal issues;
- Improved health & wellbeing;
- Developing a sense of belonging within the Seaton Community.

The project offers:

- 1 to 1 confidential and professional support;
- Signposting to other agencies;
- Access to Aberdeen Sport Village;
- Activities such as:
 - Music
 - Cooking
 - Baking
 - Gardening

Seaton Recovery Project

Do you live in Seaton or the surrounding area? Are you looking for support for a drug or alcohol issue?

The Project is open for drop in every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 12pm – 1:30pm.

For more information drop in to see us or give us a call:

**Seaton Learning Centre,
Seaton Place East,
Aberdeen,
AB24 1XE
Tel: 01224 277927**





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5. CPA Annual Report

Community Planning Aberdeen has now published its [Annual Report for 2016-17](#). Sections relating to Community Justice can be found in the 'Prosperous People' section on pages 24 onwards.

For further information, please contact communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.



6. National Issues

Guidance for the Delivery of Restorative Justice in Scotland

In October, the Scottish Government published a guide to the use of restorative justice. Restorative justice facilitates dialogue between victims and offenders and allows victims to explain the impact the crime has had on their lives. The aim is to empower victims by giving them a voice and to help offenders take responsibility for their actions and make amends.

[‘Delivery of Restorative Justice in Scotland’](#) sets out best practice guidance and factors to be considered in delivery, based on international academic and practitioner evidence.

Supporting Offenders with Learning Disabilities

In November the SOLD Network launched its [Practice Guide for Support Workers – People With Learning Disabilities in the Scottish Criminal Justice System](#)

Community Justice Scotland Learning, Development & Innovation Strategy

Community Justice Scotland published their draft [Learning, Development & Innovation Strategy](#) for consultation on 18th December 2017. Feedback on the Strategy is sought by 12th March 2018.

Merry Christmas