

Aberdeen Community Justice Group Meeting – Criminal Justice Social Work Service, Spring Garden, Aberdeen

4.10.2017

Present:

(AP) Allister Purdie, Governor, Scottish Prison Service (Chair)
 (IB) Isla Benzie, Sheriff Clerk Depute, Scottish Courts & Tribunals Service
 (NC) Neil Carnegie, Area Communities & Housing Manager, ACC
 (CD) Claire Duncan, Lead Social Work Officer, AHSCP
 (JD) Joyce Duncan, Chief Executive, ACVO
 (WK) Willy Kenyon, Skills Development Scotland
 (EL) Elaine Logue, Chief Insp, Police Scotland
 (KM) Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive, Community Justice Scotland
 (SM) Susan Morrison, Partnership Officer, ACVO
 (AP) Ally Prockter, Active Aberdeen Partnership
 (SR) Simon Rayner, ADP
 (GR) Gordon Riddel, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
 (FR) Faith-Jason Robertson-Foy, Civic Forum
 (AT) Alan Townsend, Depute COPFS
 (VV) Val Vertigans, Community Justice Officer

Apologies:

Angela Scott, Chief Executive, ACC
 Derek McGowan, Head of Communities & Housing, ACC
 Christopher Macintosh, Assistant Procurator Fiscal, COPFS
 (MM) Mark McEwan, Modernisation Directorate, NHS Grampian
 Nicola Graham, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland
 Fiona Hendry, Sheriff's Clerk, Scottish Courts & Tribunals Service
 David Henderson, Civic Forum
 Bernadette Oxley, Chief Social Work Officer, Aberdeen City
 Sheriff Morag McLaughlin

In attendance:

(LS) Lesley Simpson, CJSW Service Manager, AHSCP
 (GF) Gemma Fraser, Improvement Lead, Community Justice Scotland
 (SW) Samantha Whipp, Improvement Lead, Community Justice Scotland

Agenda Item	Discussions /Decision	Owner
1. Welcome / Apologies	AP welcomed all to the meeting, noting that he had agreed to take the Chair in the absence of AS. Apologies were noted as listed above. VV advised that subsequent to discussions at the last meeting, wider representation from NHS Grampian had been sought, and a response was awaited.	VV/AS

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2. Minute of Meeting on 10 th March 2017	<p>The minute of the last meeting was agreed. The following matters arising were considered (other issues would be picked up as substantive agenda items):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 3 (Involving people with lived experience in the Group's agenda) – it was proposed that having one individual as a member of the Group would not reflect the views of 'people with lived experience'. Input could be sought for specific meetings/agenda items, and focus groups held, as deemed appropriate. It was pointed out that involvement of relevant stakeholders (including those impacted) was a key element of use of the Improvement Methodology, and reference was also made to the 'Client Questionnaire' to be considered under Item 7. Item 6 (Arrest Referral) – CD advised that the Project Team had met, and that Tests of Change were planned, including a worker attending the Custody Suite for a small number of specific time periods over the next month or so, (using an existing Court Assessment Tool), and use of a questionnaire to be given to people at other times. Data would be gathered about issues/ needs arising. AT suggested that it might be possible to utilise video-link technology for preliminary screening by mental health professionals where appropriate (given resourcing constraints). It was agreed that this be pursued. 	CD
3. Outcome Improvement Delivery Plan	<p>i) The Summary Progress Tracker report providing an overview of progress of projects being taken forward using the Improvement Methodology was noted. This was the key reporting tool for the Group. The following projects were being pursued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrest Referral (tests of change planned); Support for Families of people in the Justice System (tests of change being implemented); Unpaid Work placement providers in Northfield Locality (charter to be agreed, led by Locality). <p>ii) VV advised that the Delivery Plans for all Outcome Improvement Groups were to be submitted to the Community Planning Management Group meeting at end October. The Group considered and agreed the Plan, noting the following issues in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project Lead for the 'Diversion from Prosecution' project was to be agreed at the next meeting of the Project Team in November 2017; CD to seek representation from the Health & Social Care Partnership Senior Operations Team in relation to Mental Health; SR to be the lead for the 'Alcohol and Drug Support' project. <p>iii) The meeting endorsed a draft Project Charter with the Aim "Increase the number of families of people</p>	CJS/VV CD

	in the Justice System in Aberdeen receiving support (if they wish to do so) by 100% by end March 2018”.	
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4. Improvement Project: Diversion from Prosecution	<p>GF presented an update from an initial meeting of stakeholders held on 28th September. A target group for the project was agreed as males aged 16 – 30 years. Supporting data/information was requested, to better inform this, from Police Scotland, COPFS, Criminal Justice Social Work, Sacro and Barnardo’s, in advance of a further meeting to be arranged for November 2017.</p> <p>It was noted that communication of key messages around what Diversion from Prosecution is, its effectiveness and outcomes, would be essential in raising awareness and understanding about the ‘Justness’ of this approach.</p>	
5. Locality Plan Updates	<p>i) An update report was noted. VV advised that quarterly meetings were taking place with Locality Managers and Criminal Justice Social Work to ensure ongoing discussions – agendas would be focussed using relevant data. VV and LS had attended a recent Northfield Locality Partnership Board Meeting and also the Community Council Forum.</p> <p>Projects underway with strong links between Community Justice and Localities included ‘Seaton Recovery Project’ and ‘Unpaid Work placement providers in Northfield Locality’ (see below). It was noted that this agenda item could be widened to cover links with other Outcome Improvement Groups as well as with Localities, given that there were a number of over-lapping agendas.</p> <p>The need to link in with Health & Social Care locality areas was highlighted – CD advised that this was being pursued.</p> <p>ii) Members endorsed a draft Project Charter “To increase the number of providers of Community Payback Order Unpaid Work placements in the wider Northfield locality by 50% by end March 2018”. It was suggested that representation from the Community Council might be helpful on this project group. The potential for individuals on UPW requirements linking in with local volunteers was discussed. LS agreed to take forward a suggestion about UPW teams undertaking gritting of footpaths in icy conditions.</p> <p>An additional suggestion was made to invite representation from Elected Members onto the Community Justice Group given their knowledge of local issues. VV agreed to seek advice about this. (It was noted that there was Elected Member representation on the over-arching CPA Board and on the Locality Boards.)</p>	VV

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6. Community Engagement, Participation & Empowerment	<p>i) SM presented the Terms of Reference of the Aberdeen Third Sector Community Justice Forum facilitated by ACVO. The Forum had been meeting for over 12 months and was found beneficial by members. The Terms of Reference were endorsed.</p> <p>SM agreed to collate brief summaries of the roles of third sector partners to share with Group members.</p> <p>ii) The meeting noted a report about a pilot undertaken during February 2017 by members of the Third Sector Forum aimed at seeking feedback from clients of Community Justice-related services using a simple one-page questionnaire. Key findings of the pilot included the relatively high proportion of individuals who had responded 'Yes' to a question about whether they have a disability, and responses indicating a desire for earlier support in relation to a family member going in to prison.</p> <p>The questionnaire had been revised as a result of the pilot, and Third Sector Forum members had agreed to continue the use of the questionnaire on an ongoing basis, endeavouring to seek completion of 12 per quarter.</p> <p>Members of the CJ Group were requested to feedback to VV as to whether there was any appetite for use of the questionnaire (with or without further development) by wider (statutory) partners/services.</p> <p>iii) Members agreed the Community-facing Plan subject to the revisions outlined in the covering report. In terms of inclusion of reference to resource allocation/ joint resourcing and preventative spend, it was noted that an approach to this was will be considered by CPA.</p>	<p>SM</p> <p>ALL</p>
7. Any Other Business	<p>i) Practice Improvement Group: The need for an operational/practice improvement group had been highlighted by partners. The draft remit was agreed, and an initial meeting was to be arranged.</p> <p>ii) Emerging Opportunities for Improvement: KM referred to an innovative approach to diversion to NHS being developed in Glasgow. GF noted that CJS were developing a comprehensive report on Diversion from Prosecution including good practice from elsewhere in Scotland and beyond.</p> <p>KM stressed the need to decide what success looks like, and agree key messages for dissemination, noting that CJS could provide support around this.</p>	VV

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8. Programme for Government	A summary document was noted. KM advised that CJS have developed a more detailed document, and agreed to share this with the Group.	CJS
9. Future Meeting Dates / Forward Planning	Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 24 th January 2018, at 10-12 noon, at HMP Grampian at Peterhead. This would be preceded by a visit/tour for any members interested, from 1pm. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2018, plus the Forward Plan of topics to be considered, were endorsed.	