



## 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

---

- **Outcomes and Performance Improvement Framework:** This is due to be published, alongside the new national Community Justice Strategy and Guidance, by the end of June 2016. The new national Common Outcomes which will form part of the Framework are:

### Person-centred Outcomes:

- Individual’s resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced;
- People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute through education, employment and leisure activities;
- Life chances are improved through needs, including health, welfare, housing and safety, being addressed.

### Structural Outcomes:

- Communities improve their understanding and participation in community justice;
- Partners plan and deliver services in a more strategic and collaborative way;
- People have better access to the services they require including welfare, health and wellbeing, housing and employability;
- Effective interventions are delivered to prevent and reduce the risk of further offending.

- **Community Justice Scotland:** Recruitment has now taken place for the Chair and Chief Executive of the new national body, although there has not been an announcement of the outcome as yet. CJS is due to become operational from October 2016.
- **Self-Evaluation:** The Care Inspectorate has been requested by Scottish Government to develop an approach to the self-evaluation of Community Justice in Scotland and is engaging with partners about this. A Survey Monkey survey seeking the views of staff working in Community Justice is currently being undertaken – the link can be found [here](#). [Survey open until 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016.]



## 2. Aberdeen Third Sector Community Justice Forum

---

The first meeting of Aberdeen's new Third Sector Community Justice Forum took place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The meeting was facilitated and hosted by ACVO, Aberdeen's third sector interface. Representatives of nine third sector organisations attended, with a further three putting in apologies.

Aberdeen's Policy Coordinator for Community Justice Redesign presented a brief overview about the Redesign, and then discussions followed about key issues arising and about the potential role for the new Forum. A further meeting date was agreed as Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 10 am at ACVO's premises in Aberdeen.

For further information, or to become involved with the Forum, please contact Susan Morrison at: [susan.morrison@acvo.org.uk](mailto:susan.morrison@acvo.org.uk)

## 3. Health and Wellbeing Matters

---



*Penny Gillies- Health Improvement Practitioner for People in the Justice System (NHS Grampian)*

Supporting people in the justice system and those at risk of offending to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing is part of the holistic approach promoted by the Community Justice (Scotland) Act. The 'Health Improvement Practitioner' role offers a great opportunity to look at further ways for people involved in the Justice System and their families to link in with the huge amount of fantastic work going on across Grampian to help support the health and wellbeing of all of our communities.

Some of the current work with partners includes:

- Exploring ways to embed health and wellbeing into partners' every-day practice as part of a holistic approach;
- Developing a health information point in the prison library where prisoners can access up to date and relevant health information in various formats;
- Working with the prison education centre to develop health related extensions to their existing successful peer mentorship programme. Students will be supported to continue building on skills and providing peer mentorship once released; and
- Working with the Family Help Hub staff at HMP and YOI Grampian to find further ways to improve whole family health - for example introducing health promoting activities during family visits.

For further information please contact Penny Gillies: [penny.gillies@nhs.net](mailto:penny.gillies@nhs.net)



## 4. TV Screens in Kittybrewster Custody Suite

---

Police Scotland is committed to working with partners who provide a variety of support services to people in Police custody who have issues with substance misuse, financial problems, have been involved in domestic related incidents or are experiencing other social issues.

In an effort to change the perception of the custody environment from being a punitive measure to one which is seen as the first step to support or recovery, three television screens are strategically located in the custody centre. The purpose of these screens is to advertise various support services that may potentially be available on site or post custody.

Services interested in engaging with individuals whilst in police custody should contact Inspector Fleming: Tel 01224 387400; Email [Mark.Fleming@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Mark.Fleming@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

## 5. Unpaid Work – The Big Dig

---

Following a recent request from the Clockwork Nursery in Altens, clients of Criminal Justice Social Work's Unpaid Work service who are on Community Payback Orders 'paid back' to the community by making plaques which were put up in the nursery garden on the fence above seedlings to be planted by each child as part of their 'Big Dig'. Teams of individuals on Unpaid Work cut out the pieces of wood, and then engraved the name of each child, and the name of the seedling they were planting, onto the plaques using a wood-burning process. A picture of the plant was then painted onto each plaque before they were varnished - around 45 plaques in total. The Nursery was delighted with the outcome of the project and fed back that the children would be really pleased with their plaques.



## 6. Visiting Prison – Travel Costs

---



For many relatives the distance and cost of travel to HMP Grampian in Peterhead or further afield prisons makes visiting very difficult. It is little known that, for those who are over 18, visiting a close relative, partner, or escorting a child to see a family member, and on a low income, travel costs can be paid twice a month. To claim back expenses an Assisted Prison Visits form needs to be filled in and a 'proof of visit' slip stamped by the prison.

For more information, forms and help with filling in forms please contact Families Outside Helpline on 0800 254 0088, or the Family Centre and Help Hub at HMP Grampian on 01779 485829.



## 7. HMP & YOI Grampian Running Club

---

In January HMP & YOI Grampian joined forces with Families Outside to set up Grampian Running Club. The initial pilot was funded through NHS Grampian health improvement fund. The aim was to encourage prisoners to take up long distance running along with their families outside - while prisoners were running in the prison, their friends and family would also be encouraged to do the same on the outside. The project has exceeded expectations, so much so that there is now a waiting list of prisoners who wish to join the club.

The project was assisted by Lindsay Jessiman from Families Outside and Paolo Maccagno, ultra-marathon runner and anthropology researcher at University of Aberdeen. Paolo ran along with club members and conducted classroom sessions where he explained the importance of posture, nutrition and preparing mentally to run a race. He has also helped develop training plans and to work individually with each runner around personal goals. More recently the group has been visited by a local Jog Scotland leader whom it is hoped will continue working with the group both in the prison and the wider community. Fife College lecturer and keen runner Lorraine Reid has also supported the group, and has used the opportunity to assess and award prisoners ASDAN certificates for various activities within the club.

Based on previous experience of Paolo's, the club aimed to run a 10k on the same day as the Aberdeen Baker Hughes 10k, and one of the original running club members who progressed to the prison's Community Integration Unit managed to take part in the race itself on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Meanwhile in the prison, nine prisoners, many of whom had never undertaken any kind of serious distance running before, completed a 10k within the grounds of the prison.

Families were invited in to see their loved ones receive their awards for competing in the race and have also been involved in sporty themed visits and have taken part in running and other sports activities at the Family Centre and Help Hub at HMP Grampian. On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, ladies from Banff House Block took part in a 'Colour Me Rad' 5k where they had the opportunity to run or walk a 5k course while undergoing a gauntlet of powdered paint dye bombs!



*Runners and staff at the presentation ceremony*

## 8. New Victims' Code

---

A new Victims' Code for Scotland which clearly and simply sets out the rights of victims in one place, was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. The code aims to improve victims' experience of the criminal justice system. The Code sets out the rights of victims of crime, such as the right to interpretation and translation and information about the release of offenders. The new Code can be accessed at: <https://www.mygov.scot/victim-witness-rights/>

---