



June 2018

## **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](mailto:vavertigans@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or Tel: 07342 060939

For past minutes of the Community Justice Group, and other information about Community Justice, follow the link to the [Community Justice page](#) on the Community Planning Aberdeen website.

### 1. Aberdeen Community Justice Group

The last meeting of the CJ Group was held at Aberdeen's Sheriff Court, hosted by the Scottish Courts & Tribunals Service. Interested members had the opportunity of a visit/tour of the courts beforehand. Discussion at the meeting took place around a number of improvement projects, including:

- Wider Support for Families – a project involving Families Outside, the Family Centre & Help Hub at HMP Grampian (Action for Children), and Alcohol and Drugs Action testing ways of working collaboratively to offer support to families of people in the Justice System at the earliest possible opportunity (particularly when someone is imprisoned) at what can be a very difficult time for them; and
- Unpaid Work Placement Providers in wider Northfield locality – a project which aims to test different ways of increasing the number of individual placement providers in the locality, and to increase the number of people from that locality undertaking Unpaid Work in that area, where possible.

For more information about these and other projects, the Community Justice Group, or the wider Community Justice agenda in Aberdeen, please contact the author (details above) or follow the above link to the minutes of meetings of the Group.

### 2. Adverse Childhood Experiences

NHS Health Scotland has produced this short animation to contribute to raising awareness about the impact of childhood adversity. The intention is to stimulate discussion about what action can be taken to both prevent and respond to early adversity. Press 'Control' and click on the image to follow the link to the video (it lasts 4 minutes 16 seconds).





### 3. Unpaid Work in Action

Criminal Justice Social Work Service's Indoor Craft Unpaid Work Teams have been busy designing some pots for seeds to flower in, in support of the launch of Aberdeen Inspired "Bee inspired" at His Majesty's Theatre which took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> June. A bee hive has been set up outside the HMT Restaurant windows and is already pollinating flowers and plants throughout the city's communities - the Bees are on parade for all to see and are already producing honey for all to enjoy.



The craft unpaid work teams have also made Beastie blocks - a range of wooden blocks with different types of insects drawn on them and then the picture burned on to make it permanent. They are then positioned around community parks, schools and wooded areas for a fun educational game for the children to enjoy.



Pots have also been painted with a wildlife theme for the 30 Days of June 2018 Wildlife Challenge - they will be displayed and sold at Rosemount Community Centre and any monies raised going to charity.



**Engaging individuals at the Police Custody Suite:** On 21<sup>st</sup> June Police Scotland hosted a workshop aimed at exploring the partnership, intervention and support opportunities both within and around the new Criminal Justice Hub in Kittybrewster Police Station. The intention is to transform a custody suite from a place of detention and security to a platform for delivering interventions to support healthcare and wellbeing, in collaboration with NHS colleagues, partner agencies and third sector organisations. Further updates to follow as this project progresses.



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## 4. Media Access Project – HMP Grampian

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SHMU's Media Access Project (MAP) continues to undertake award winning work, both In HMP&YOI Grampian and through the transition with prisoners into the community.

Their recent annual reports to their main funders The Big Lottery and the Fairer Aberdeen Fund included details of the Koestler Awards achieved by participants of the project and the impressive amount of radio, film and music created on both sides of the wall.

A study undertaken in the prison in December showed that 72% of prisoners listen regularly to radio broadcast via their in-house radio station 'Con-air'. MAP assisted prisoners to create and broadcast 260 shows over the past year, many of which included inputs from services which are involved in the huge and varied scope of work within the field of 'criminal justice'.

Similarly, MAP are working alongside prisoners to make films and community style magazines to share opportunities for prisoners to engage more effectively with services and communities – and vice versa. If you want to hear more about this work or would like to take advantage of these connections, email [gary.dawson@shmu.org.uk](mailto:gary.dawson@shmu.org.uk)



## 5. Community Justice Third Sector Forum – Model for Improvement Session

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On 3<sup>rd</sup> April, members of Aberdeen's Community Justice Third Sector Forum took part in a workshop aimed at learning about the Model for Improvement by collaboratively developing a 'real' project charter. Following a discussion about 'what needs improving', 18 representatives from 13 third sector organisations, plus RGU, participated in discussions to inform a project Aim Statement: *"All agencies within the Third Sector Community Justice Forum will understand the aims, specific services provided, age group and eligibility criteria of all other Forum partner organisations by December 2018"*. The group also came up with measures that could be used to establish if the desired 'improvement' has been made, and what changes could be made/tested that would contribute to achieving the aim. A number of the 'change ideas' are to be tested, including an Aberdeen Practitioners' Forum. The event was kindly supported by the Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum, with CFine providing the catering.



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## 5. Improving Transfer of Drug Treatment from HMP Grampian to NHS Substance Misuse Service

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Significant good work has taken place on multidisciplinary basis to improve the continuity of care for prisoners leaving HMP Grampian and transferring to community-based addiction services. The transfer of care for prisoners who are being liberated whilst being treated for drug dependence is recognised as a key process in preventing drug related deaths. The smooth transition from one part of the NHS to another is critical in maintaining stability and continuity of care for prisoners moving into the community.

The work of a multidisciplinary team has resulted in a number of developments:

- 1) A standardised form used to communicate medicines information;
- 2) A standardised form for the summary and transfer of substance misuse care;
- 3) A process and safety checklist being developed for use with the Case Management Board for managing liberations in advance of release;
- 4) Protocol for managing the process of prisoners returning to primary care where they have been de-registered.

Work is ongoing to progress further improvements in relation to:

- 1) Transfer of information from Community addiction services into the prison healthcare team;
- 2) Management of “unplanned” liberations from Court;
- 3) Finalisation of a Standard Operating Procedure.

## 6. Preparations for Prison Smoking Ban

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A working group in HMP Grampian is taking steps in preparation for the ban on smoking which is to be introduced in Scotland’s prisons from the end of 2018.

Changes implemented include:

- A new Healthpoint/SAS Advisor has been recruited to an 11-month post to support the prison going smoke-free and to deliver the Healthpoint service;
- Protocol being developed to enable Advisors to issue Nicotine Replacement Therapy direct to prisoners;
- Healthpoint has been set up in the prison library. Evaluation of service in progress;
- Health & Safety guidance produced for Public Health employees delivering services at HMP & YOI Grampian;
- SPS Officers and Substance Misuse Nurses undertook nationally accredited specialist smoking cessation training.

For further information, please contact Wendy Innocent [wendy.innocent@nhs.net](mailto:wendy.innocent@nhs.net)