

Aberdeen Community Justice Group Meeting – Sheriff Court

30.5.18

Present:

(AS) Angela Scott, Chief Executive, ACC (Chair)
(JD) John Donaghey, Lead Nurse, Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Service, AHSCP
(CD) Claire Duncan, Lead Social Work Officer, AHSCP
(JD) Joyce Duncan, Chief Executive, ACVO
(DH) David Henderson, Civic Forum
(FH) Fiona Hendry, Sheriff's Clerk, Scottish Courts & Tribunals Service
Dr Linda Leighton-Beck, Head of Social Inclusion/Public Health, NHS Grampian
(EL) Elaine Logue, Chief Insp, Police Scotland
(MM) Sheriff Morag McLaughlin
(SM) Susan Morrison, Partnership Officer, ACVO
(AP) Allister Purdie, Governor, Scottish Prison Service
(SR) Simon Rayner, ADP
(DR) Darren Riddell, SFRS
(LS) Lynn Smith, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland
(DWT) David Wilkie-Thorburn, COPFS
(VV) Val Vertigans, Community Justice Officer

In attendance:

Sheriff Principal Derek Pyle
Tanita Addario, Development Worker, Torry
Fiona Gray, Development Manager, Wider Northfield Locality
Pam Simpson, Manager, Family Centre & Help Hub, HMP Grampian
Paul Tytler, Locality Manager, Wider Woodside Locality

Apologies:

Neil Carnegie, Area Communities & Housing Manager, ACC
Jane Fletcher, Head of Hosted Mental Health & Learning Disability Services
Derek McGowan, Head of Communities & Housing, ACC
Bernadette Oxley, Chief Social Work Officer, Aberdeen City
Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive, Community Justice Scotland
Ally Prockter, Active Aberdeen Partnership
Faith-Jason Robertson-Foy

Agenda Item	Discussions /Decision	Owner
1. Welcome / Apologies	AS welcomed all to the meeting, and in particular the Sheriff Principal. Apologies were noted as listed above. DH noted that, although Faith-Jason Robertson-Foy was not able to attend, she was keen to be part of/involved in the Group.	
2. CPA Outcome Improvement Groups – Chair Allocations	<p>The meeting noted a paper advising of changes to Chairs of Outcome Improvement Groups, and the introduction of the role of Vice Chair, as approved by the CPA Board. AS was to remain as Interim Chair pending a decision by SPS as to whether AP could take up the role from June 2018. EL had been nominated by Police Scotland to take the role of Vice Chair of the Group.</p> <p>AS noted that the Board had requested that individual Outcome Improvement Groups present to the Board about progress against LOIP priorities to date. Representatives of the CJ Group were likely to be invited to attend the Board for this purpose in September.</p>	
3. Minute of Meeting on 28 th March 2018	<p>The minute of the last meeting was agreed subject to the following amendment: - adding in reference, in relation to the draft Charter regarding Quality of Community Payback Orders, to the fact that DH had indicated that he wished to consider this further from a community perspective.</p> <p>The following matters arising were considered (other issues were to be picked up as substantive agenda items):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 4 – The Employability Group were to raise awareness of the Project with Points of Contact to be identified by statutory partners – the Group considered that this was likely to be more effective than sharing the Charter with HR colleagues; • Item 4 – The necessary revisions had been made to the ‘Quality of CPOs’ Charter, and this had been circulated electronically as agreed; • Item 4 – The re-setting of the ‘Referral at point of arrest’ Charter was on hold pending progression of Police Scotland’s proposed ‘Hub’ at the Custody Suite. It was agreed that the Charter be deferred until the next meeting. 	CD

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<p>4. Improvement Activity Progress Report</p> <p>4i) Summary Progress Tracker</p>	<p>The Summary Progress Tracker report providing an overview of progress of projects being taken forward using the Model for Improvement, and the Appendix containing relevant data and update information, was considered.</p> <p>AS noted that only one project was rated at '3' on the Progress Scale (Making Modest Improvement), and that the CPA Board was keen to understand why projects were not making more progress and would consider whether or not resource should continue to be committed to progressing projects which were not moving forwards/making a difference. The need to highlight any barriers to progress was emphasised. It was noted that the Families project which had ended at end March 2018 had been rated 4.5 (Sustainable Improvement) and that a revised Charter was to be submitted to this meeting proposing the upscaling and spreading of the learning from this project. (This was not reflected on the overview chart in the report.)</p> <p>The content of the Appendix was noted.</p>	
<p>4ii) What are we trying to accomplish – draft Project Charters</p>	<p>Draft Project Charters were considered by the Group.</p> <p>a) <u>Draft Charter – Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing Outcomes</u></p> <p><u>Proposed Aim Statement:</u> <i>To increase the number of clients attending the women's centre to progress onto the core programme by 15% within 6 months from the date of training.</i></p> <p>Members provided feedback about the draft Charter including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questioning whether the Aim Statement should be more focussed on outcomes for the women participating in the training; • More specific reference could be made to the links to Borderline Personality Disorder; • The Business Case could be more focussed on the outcomes for women rather than the training programme itself; • Include reference to potential to broaden to a wider client base. <p>LLB and Police expressed interest in being part of the Project Team. JD to re-submit a revised Charter for consideration at the next meeting.</p>	<p>JD</p>

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<p>4ii) (cont'd) What are we trying to accomplish – draft Project Charters</p>	<p>b) <u>Draft Charter – Wider Support for Families</u></p> <p><u>Proposed Aim Statement:</u> <i>To increase the number of family members of people in HMP Grampian and HMYOI Polmont who feel they received appropriate and timely support from Families Outside, Family Centre & Help Hub, and Alcohol & Drugs Action by 20% by March 2019.</i></p> <p>Members gave feedback about a draft Charter which aimed to scale up and spread learning from the previous Support for Families project. Feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Charter could be more specific in reflecting what would be done differently in relation to different ‘groups’ of families (eg families of people imprisoned for the first time, families of ‘revolving door’ prisoners, family members of Looked After Children); • Consideration to be given to measure/s specific to outcomes for children <p>PS to review the Charter according to the above comments, and circulate electronically for approval.</p> <p>c) <u>Update – Alcohol and Drugs</u></p> <p>SR tabled draft Driver Diagrams relating to potential Improvement Projects.</p> <p>It was agreed that Project Charters would be submitted to the next meeting in relation to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unplanned releases from Court; and 2. Continuity of care, particularly in relation to individuals at the Police Custody Suite. <p>Partners to provide relevant data about numbers/%s of people accessing treatment (community and prison) to inform the project.</p> <p>Project team membership for the Unplanned Releases from Court project to include representation from CJSWS Pre-Disposal Team, SCTS, Prison Escort Service, and COPFS.</p> <p>Project team membership for the Continuity of Care project to include representation from Police (Custody Division) and Aberdeenshire HSCP (which hosts the Nursing and Healthcare service in the Custody Suite).</p>	<p>PS/VV</p> <p>SR</p> <p>CD/AP</p>

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<p>5. Links to other OIG Delivery Plans and Locality Plans</p>	<p>a) <u>Revised Charter – Unpaid Work Placement Providers in Northfield</u></p> <p><i>Proposed Aim Statement: To increase the number of providers of Community Payback Order Unpaid Work individual placements in the Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield wider locality area by 300% by end December 2018.</i></p> <p>The Group gave feedback about the revised Charter. It was noted that this had been submitted to a previous meeting and had also been considered and endorsed by the Northfield Locality Partnership. Feedback from the Group included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim Statement to be reviewed in terms of the target increase (currently 3 (from a baseline of 1)); • Consideration to be given to inclusion of a Measure/Change Idea(s) regarding increasing the number of individuals from the Northfield Locality area accessing placements in that area. <p>It was agreed that Faith-Jason Robertson-Foy be invited to join the Project Team, given her interest in being involved in work around Community Payback Orders.</p> <p>FG/Kay Diack to review the Charter according to the above comments, and circulate electronically for approval.</p> <p>b) <u>Revised Charter – Domestic Abuse in Woodside</u></p> <p><i>Proposed Aim Statement: To reduce the recorded instances of domestic abuse criminality by 10% in the Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton Locality by 31/12/2019.</i></p> <p>The main focus of feedback from the Group about the Charter was to query the link between the Change Ideas and the Aim Statement, ie the extent to which awareness-raising etc would actually impact on reductions in offending in the proposed timescales. Additional feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential for awareness-raising to increase number of recorded incidents, rather than decrease; • The wording ‘recorded instances of domestic abuse criminality’ to be reviewed, to be more specific; • The need for care to be taken in relation to seeking feedback via questionnaires from children and young people on this topic. 	<p>FG/KD/VV</p>

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<p>5. (Cont'd) Links to other OIG Delivery Plans and Locality Plans</p>	<p>It was agreed that representation from Criminal Justice Social Work and Educational Psychologist be invited to join the Project Team.</p> <p>PT to re-submit a revised Charter for consideration at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>c) Draft Charter – Domestic Abuse (Coercive Control) Awareness-raising in Torry</u></p> <p><u>Proposed Aim Statement:</u> <i>To increase the number of people in Torry, Kincorth and Cove indicating awareness about the change of legislation on coercive control by 1000 by 31st December 2018.</i></p> <p>It was agreed that information be sought about plans nationally regarding awareness-raising around the implementation of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 (which received Royal Assent on 9th March 2018), prior to proceeding with this project.</p> <p><u>d) Links to Integrated Children’s Services Board – Potential Projects</u></p> <p>The Group noted an update regarding improvement work planned by the ICS Board.</p>	<p>PT</p> <p>TT/VV</p>
<p>6. One Judge One Family Update</p>	<p>FH advised that three cases identified by CJSWS for further discussion in relation to a One Judge One Family approach (ie where a family is involved in both civil and criminal courts) had not been suitable. Sheriff McLaughlin and FH would instead develop a scenario for the purposes of a table-top discussion by relevant partners/services, aimed at looking at potential cross-overs and identifying areas where there may be potential to improve practice.</p> <p>It was agreed that any findings/proposals be submitted to the meeting of the Group to be held on 31st October 2018. It was noted that the Sheriff Principal had endorsed this approach and would need to give his consent to any future proposals, from the perspective of the Court/Sheriffs.</p>	

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<p>7. Community Engagement – Tackling Stigma</p>	<p>The meeting noted a report which followed on from discussions at the last meeting around a presentation given by Community Justice Scotland on ‘Perceptions of Community Justice’. The report proposed that consideration be given to ‘how we talk about justice, how we activate the ‘rehabilitation’ model (so that the theme of ‘rehabilitation’ runs through when we are talking about justice) and how we allow the public to see ‘context’ (in line with CJS’s findings from research).</p> <p>It was agreed that a Project Team come together to take this forward, to take into consideration also the draft Project Charter by David Henderson which had been circulated prior to the meeting, and also an overview of community engagement activities undertaken by partners which had been compiled. Members indicated their willingness to be involved/contribute as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Henderson (to consult with Civic Forum/community members in relation to who might be involved and lead on the project); • SPS – Central Communications; • ACVO – to seek interest from relevant third sector organisations; • SCTS; • SFRS – Communications. <p>It was also agreed that representation be sought from ACC Education/Curriculum Team. Community Justice Scotland had agreed to be involved, at the last meeting.</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>SM</p> <p>DH/VV</p>
<p>8. External Funding Opportunities</p>	<p>The meeting noted a CPA Funding Tracker report which summarised current external funding opportunities.</p> <p>BBC Children in Need funding for projects working with children and young people of 18 years and under experiencing disadvantage was noted as being of potential interest to the ‘Wider Support for Families’ project.</p>	<p>PS</p>

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<p>9. Practice, Learning & Development Group (the Practice Group)</p>	<p>The minute of the meeting held on 9th May 2018 was noted. David Scott, the Head of Learning, Development and Innovation at Community Justice Scotland, had taken on the role of Chair of this Group, and had been invited to join the main Community Justice Group in that capacity.</p> <p>It had been proposed by the Practice Group that it might be helpful for the Group to consider Project Charters before their submission to the main CJ Group in order to flag obstacles and make sure relevant links were in place. The CJ Group confirmed that this would be helpful, given that the Practice Group would be taking a professional learning and development focus. The CJ Group would retain the strategic lead for all projects/charters.</p> <p>It was proposed that additional membership of the Practice Group could include representation from the Criminal Justice Division of Police Scotland, and from acute NHS services.</p>	<p>EL/LLB/JD</p>
<p>10. Emerging Opportunities for Improvement</p>	<p><u>Joint Working in relation to Young People in HMYOI Polmont</u></p> <p>A number of issues had been raised at a meeting of partners held on 25th April 2018 in relation to young people from Aberdeen detained in Polmont, particularly in relation to lack of engagement by Aberdeen partners/services with young people not open to social work. A further meeting was planned for 4th July 2018 to progress this and to inform the development of improvement work. Members were requested to link in to VV if they wished to be involved in this.</p>	
<p>11. Model for Improvement Training</p>	<p>Community Planning Aberdeen staff were offering the opportunity for Outcome Improvement Groups to receive training in relation to the Model for Improvement. VV was requested to circulate dates of forthcoming training sessions planned.</p>	<p>VV</p>
<p>12. Update by Sheriff Principal</p>	<p>The Sheriff Principal thanked the meeting for inviting him to attend and appraised members regarding several issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting involving Scottish Government and local partners was to take place the following week regarding Aberdeen’s Problem-Solving Court. Discussions would take place in relation to how to develop the PSC further. It was agreed that the outcome of this meeting be reported back to the CJ Group. 	<p>CD/LS</p>

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12. (Cont'd) Update by Sheriff Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sheriff Principal referred to the new Community Justice Centre being built in Inverness – where Court and relevant services would be co-located – and expressed his view that the next such CJC could be in Aberdeen. The Chair expressed the interest of the CJ Group in receiving a presentation about the CJC in Inverness in due course. • Scottish Government’s Programme for Government 2017-18 included plans to extend the presumption against short sentences from 3 to 12 months, which would have implications for partners involved. [DH noted potential concerns of community members regarding the potential for some crimes not to be punished with imprisonment.] 	FH
13. Date of Next Meeting	Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 29 th August 2018, 2 – 4.45 pm, to be hosted by Skills Development Scotland. A pre-visit would take place for those interested, from 1 – 2 pm.	