

**Aberdeen Community Justice Group Meeting
Committee Room 4, Town House
19.09.19**

Present:

(DMcG) Derek McGowan, Chief Officer, Early Intervention & Community Empowerment, ACC (Chair)
 (SG) Stephen Gray, SPS, for Mike Hebden
 (DH) David Henderson, Civic Forum
 (KM) Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive, Community Justice Scotland
 (SM) Susan Morrison, Partnership Manager, ACVO
 (JN) Jeff Newman, Sheriff Clerk, Aberdeen, SCTS
 (DP) David Paterson, T/Chief Inspector, Police Scotland
 (AP) Alex Pirrie, CAMHS, for Jane Fletcher
 (SR) Simon Rayner, ADP
 (GS) Graeme Simpson, Chief Officer, Integrated Children's and Family Services
 (LS) Lesley Simpson, CJSWS/AHSCP, for Claire Duncan
 (VV) Val Vertigans, Community Justice Officer

Apologies:

Neil Carnegie, Communities & Housing Area Manager, ACC
 John Donaghey, Lead Nurse, Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Service, AHSCP
 Claire Duncan, Lead Social Work Officer, AHSCP
 Nicola Graham, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland
 Mike Hebden, Acting Governor, Scottish Prison Service
 Dr Linda Leighton-Beck, Head of Social Inclusion/Public Health, NHS Grampian
 David Scott, Head of Learning, Development and Innovation, CJ Scotland
 Eilidh Wright, COPFS

In attendance:

(KG) Keith Gardner, Community Justice Scotland

Agenda Item	Discussions /Decision	Owner
1. Welcome / Apologies	DM welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were noted as listed above.	
2. Vice Chair	The meeting agreed the proposal to appoint DP as Vice Chair of the Group.	
3. Note of meeting held on 27 th June 2019	The minute of meeting held on 27 th June 2019 was approved as a correct record. The following matters arising were considered (other issues were to be picked up as substantive agenda items): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 2 – Action 15 briefing – to be brought to the next meeting of the Group (on 3rd December); • Item 2 – Audit of attendance – this had been pulled together. DM to consider further action; • Item 3 – VAW Partnership Plan – as agreed, SM, NC and VV had met with Kevin Walker (KW) regarding improving links between the Action Plan and the LOIP priorities. KW had agreed to the proposal of holding a workshop based on VAW Partnership plus any relevant wider contacts, to inform the LOIP 	DMcG

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3. Note of meeting held on 27th June 2019 (cont'd)	<p>project, which would enable identification of actions in the draft Plan which would form part of the specific improvement work. This had not as yet been progressed. It was proposed that the draft plan could be more ambitious, that it would be helpful to consider good practice taking place elsewhere, and that links could be included to alcohol and drugs, child protection, anti social behaviour, etc. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged involving DMcG, KW, GS, LS and ADP representation to progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 5 – ASB/EI project – this project had been combined into one and was being progressed, with testing being planned in Torry (EI with young people) and Northfield (wider ASB and response); • Item 6 – CJS Trauma Training – being progressed via ACVO for third sector; • Item 6 – Trauma conference details had been shared by CD. 	VV
4. Improvement Activity Progress Report	<p>The Improvement Activity Progress Report was considered. The following particular points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversion Project – now encompassed wider diversion, including Police and Fiscal Direct Measures, and provision of Court Support to young people (part of the Whole System Approach. GS advised that a WSA Coordinator was now in post. Meetings to be arranged to progress this project. • Cuckooing Project – key data ideally to be presented over time, eg numbers referred to relevant interventions. DP to discuss with project lead. DMcG to meet with project lead. • Alcohol and Drugs – further work to be done/meetings planned regarding collating relevant data. 	DP/DMcG
5i) Draft Charter – School Exclusions	<p>An early draft of a charter with the following Aim was considered: <i>Reduce by at least 5% the number of young people, identified as having indicators of risk, being excluded from school by 2021.</i> A meeting of stakeholders was to be arranged to take this forward. (A further refined draft of the charter would need to be submitted for the CP Management Group papers by early October.)</p> <p>The planned approaches relating to awareness of ACEs/trauma were welcomed. Members commented that this could be re-framed as ‘inclusion’, and that exclusion could be re-framed as a child protection/welfare concern. It was noted that data provided showed a marked improvement for primary schools, and that it may be helpful to look at what had worked there. DH noted that a variety of pathways/interventions were likely to be needed, and that it was helpful to be realistic that these may not work for all.</p> <p>Members were asked to feed back within one week any comments about the draft charter, and interest in being part of the project team to take this forward.</p>	ALL

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<p>Sii) Draft Charter – Access to Trauma & Bereavement Support for young people</p>	<p>AP presented an early draft of a charter with the following Aim: <i>Increase the number of young people who need support in relation to trauma and bereavement having access to such support by 2021.</i> A meeting of stakeholders was to be arranged to take this forward. (A further refined draft of the charter would need to be submitted for the CP Management Group papers by early October.)</p> <p>AP noted that further consideration needed to be given to supporting young people experiencing bereavement, and that she was linking in with other strategic groups giving consideration to supporting young people who have experienced trauma.</p> <p>Members were asked to feed back within one week any comments about the draft charter, and interest in being part of the project team to take this forward.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>6. Drug-related Deaths</p>	<p>SR noted that one of the LOIP Stretch Outcomes was: <i>Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026,</i> and presented a report containing data regarding drug related deaths (DRDs) that occurred in Aberdeen City for the period January 2015 – December 2017. One of the project charters being taken forward which would contribute to the achievement of this outcome - with the Aim <i>Reduce the incidence of fatal drug overdose by innovative developments and increasing the distribution of naloxone by 10% year on year by 2021</i> – had also been circulated for information.</p> <p>SR provided context for this work, and referred to the establishment by Scottish Government of a specific task force to address this issue. SR also noted that a Toolkit was to be published in the near future. A key message was that this issue was everyone’s responsibility, and not just the ADP’s.</p>	
<p>7. Effective Risk Management for Public Protection</p>	<p>DMcG raised the need to ensure appropriate links were in place between this group and the ‘public protection’ agendas (eg Adult and Child Protection and MAPP). It was agreed that this be included as a standard agenda item for this group, and that DMcG and GS would provide updates.</p>	
<p>8. Support for non-statutory prisoners</p>	<p>The Group was updated about work being taken forward aimed at mitigating the loss of the withdrawal of the TSO service.</p> <p>The potential role of community members was considered, including individuals who had been involved in offending and individuals in recovery. Examples of good practice elsewhere were noted.</p> <p>The meeting also noted the Information Sharing Agreement between SPS and the local authority which</p>	

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8. Support for non-statutory prisoners (cont'd)	<p>was being developed, and CJS Guidance relating to this and also the need for a local protocol to cover the offer of voluntary throughcare (given that information sharing relating to the offer of voluntary support would not be covered by public task).</p> <p>The Group to be kept appraised of developments.</p>	
9. Wider Support for Families project	<p>DMcG outlined the resourcing challenges being experienced which were impacting on the operation of services at the Family Centre and Help Hub at HMP Grampian. It was agreed that information would be sought as to how such Centres were funded elsewhere across the country.</p>	
10. Prison Population	<p>The meeting noted an email from Community Justice Scotland which highlighted the recent increase in the prison population (currently at its highest level for six years) and requested partnerships to <i>“think about any ways the work of the Partnership could contribute to easing the situation. This could, for example, take the form of discussions with your Sheriffs about community alternatives, prioritising work within the Partnership around enhancing bail supervision, reducing remand, implementing PASS, strengthening recommendations within court reports etc.”</i></p> <p>LS noted that numbers of people on Bail Supervision (as an alternative to remand) were increasing. Little impact had as yet been seen of the Presumption Against Short Sentences (of less than 12 months) which had come into effect in July. CJ Social Workers would recommend community sentences (as opposed to prison) in court reports where at all possible/appropriate. (DH noted the view of community members regarding the appropriateness of sentencing decisions, particular in relation to sex offences.)</p> <p>DH stated that sentences should be considered as appropriate for the offence, and agreed outcomes of the Justice system (eg public protection, rehabilitation etc), and it would be improper to have such decisions based on concerns about the prisons systems capacity, were this to be the case, which may need dealt with independently ie increase if necessary.</p> <p>The impact of i) the loss of the Throughcare Support Service, in terms of individuals no longer having TSO support being more likely to reoffend and end up back in prison, and ii) the change in criteria for Home Detention Curfew (which had resulted in far fewer people being eligible for HDC) were noted.</p> <p>LS agreed to provide relevant data to the members.</p>	LS

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11. CJS Annual Report template	Members noted the completed template which had been circulated for comment. Feedback had been taken on board. This was endorsed by the Group for submission to CJS (due 20 th September 2019).	
12. Practice Improvement Learning & Development Group	<p>SM noted that the meeting of the group due to be held on 18th September had been cancelled due to low levels of attendance. It was also noted that David Scott was finding it challenging to chair the group. The CJ Group was requested to consider the value and purpose of the Practice Group.</p> <p>It was agreed that a programme of Learning & Development workshops could be arranged aimed at sharing learning including from national reviews, looking at ways of sharing learning/key messages with communities, etc – each workshop to be led by the party most relevant to the subject matter (which would remove the need for a Chair for the group.)</p> <p>VV reminded the group that a Community Engagement sub-group had been progressing work relating to involving ‘communities’ in CJ, including the publication of a questionnaire regarding what information community members would like, and how they would like to receive this. The sub-group had been led by community members, but had not met for some time. DMcG advised that he was due to meet with the Chair of the CPA Community Engagement Group and would raise this.</p>	DMcG
13. ADP Minutes	The minute of meeting of the ADP held on 26 th July 2019 (being the latest available) was noted.	
14. Violence Against Women Partnership minutes	The minute of the meeting of the Violence Against Women Partnership held on 18 th June 2019 (being the latest available) was noted.	
15. Legislation/ Policy Tracker	The Legislation/Policy Tracker was noted. VV highlighted that a response to the CJS consultation regarding a Strategic Commissioning Framework for Community Justice had been submitted.	
16. CPA Funding Tracker	The Funding Tracker was noted.	
17. Meeting Dates 2020	The Meeting Dates for 2020 were approved.	
18. Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 3 rd December 2019, 2 – 4.30 pm, in Committee Room 4, Town House.	