

**Aberdeen Community Justice Group Meeting  
Via Microsoft Teams  
22.04.20**

<p><u>Present:</u>                  (DM) Derek McGowan, Chief Officer, Early Intervention &amp; Community Empowerment, ACC                  (DP) David Paterson, T/Chief Inspector, Police Scotland (Acting Chair)                  (CD) Claire Duncan, Lead Social Work Officer, AHSCP                  (NG) Nicola Graham, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland                  (DH) David Henderson, Civic Forum                  (KM) Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive, Community Justice Scotland                  (SM) Susan Morrison, Partnership Manager, ACVO                  (SR) Gillian Robertson, ADP (for Simon Rayner and John Donaghey)                  (GS) Graeme Simpson, Chief Officer, Integrated Children’s and Family Services                  (LS) Lesley Simpson, CJSWS/AHSCP                  (SS) Scott Symon, Group Manager, SFRS                  (VV) Val Vertigans, Community Justice Officer</p>	<p><u>Apologies:</u>                  (NC) Neil Carnegie, Communities &amp; Housing Area Manager, ACC                  (JD) John Donaghey, Lead Nurse, Mental Health &amp; Learning Disabilities Service, AHSCP                  (MH) Mike Hebden, Governor, HMP Grampian                  (JN) Jeff Newman, Sheriffs Clerk, SCTS                  (SR) Simon Rayner, ADP</p>
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Agenda Item	Discussions/Decision	Owner
1. Welcome / Apologies	DM welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were noted as listed above.	
2. Note of meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	<p>The minute of meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 was approved as a correct, subject to the following wording being added in, at DH’s request, in relation to Item 3 – MAPPA Annual Report 2018-19:</p> <p>"The community may not believe that this category of offenders, ie sexual offenders, are ever suitable for community sentences, and may not discriminate between different levels of offence (ie viewing them all as abhorrent and grossly antisocial)".</p> <p>The following matters arising were considered (other issues were to be picked up as substantive agenda items):</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item 2 – Young people affected by trauma/bereavement charter – submission to CPA Board delayed – no further update;</li> <li>• Item 2 – Domestic abuse charter – final version had been circulated electronically prior to submission to CPA Board</li> <li>• Item 4 – Cuckooing project - DP agreed to liaise with the Cuckooing project lead to request attendance at the next meeting of the CJ Group to provide a more detailed input about the project and overview of relevant data – delayed to a future meeting.</li> <li>• Item 5 – Community Engagement – DH to consider further with Civic Forum. Sub group to report back – delayed to a future meeting</li> <li>• Item 6 – JSWS Inspection – consideration of Data Summary – delayed to a future meeting</li> <li>• Item 7 – Information for Sheriffs – had been submitted to CJS</li> <li>• Item 8 – CJS Strategic Commissioning Framework case study – had been finalised for CJS</li> </ul> <p><u>Improvement projects</u></p> <p>VV advised, having liaised with project leads, that the development of new charters and progress on existing projects was effectively on hold in the current circumstances. Leads hoped to progress once the situation was improved. Matters arising from the previous minute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SO 8 – Reduce the number of young people referred to the Children’s Reporter on offence grounds as a result of appropriate and effective interventions by 2021 (Derek McGowan/Lorraine Mackie (Police Scotland)) <b>LM progressing this.</b></li> <li>• SO 8 – Increase by 10% the number of young people who are jointly reported to SCRA and COPFS who are offered robust alternatives to entering the statutory system by 2021 (Roma Bruce-Davies (SCRA)) <b>RBD progressing this.</b></li> <li>• SO 9 – Reduce the number of wilful fires by 20% by 2021 (Scott Symon) <b>VV to meet with SS to progress.</b></li> <li>• SO 10 – Increase % of individuals indicating an improvement in at least one area at the end of their CPO Supervision by 2021 (Val Vertigans) <b>VV to progress.</b></li> <li>• SO 10 - Reduce no. of repeat convictions of 16 and 17 year olds, and 18+ year olds, as a result of targeted focus on specific offending behaviour, and use of appropriate and effective interventions, by 2021 (Eilidh Wright &amp; Sheriff McLaughlin) <b>Julia Milne progressing part of this.</b></li> <li>• SO 10 - Increase number referred for appropriate (mental health) assessment/support/treatment/ services: in Police custody; on a community disposal; in HMP Grampian; by 2021 (John Donaghey/ Derek</li> </ul>	<p>JF/ Alex Pirrie</p> <p>DP</p> <p>DH/DM/CP/MH/VV</p> <p>LM</p> <p>RBD SS</p> <p>VV</p> <p>JM</p> <p>JD/DM</p>

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	<p>McGowan) <b>Noted that work is ongoing via Action 15 and the Primary Care Improvement Plan which will cover at least some of this. However, there was still a question about whether this would cover all the bases, particularly with regards to people on community sentences. The suggestion was made that it might be helpful to have a further conversation about this with JD, perhaps at a meeting of the Action 15 project group. LS to provide information about the kinds of issues being experienced.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SO 10 - Increase in number of calls by Criminal Justice professionals for advice/support to an expert helpline (linked to project above) (John Donaghey/ Derek McGowan) <b>To be combined with the project above.</b></li> <li>• SO 10 - Increase the uptake and retention of people in the Justice System with a diagnosed mental illness in specialist services by 2021 (Jane Fletcher) <b>JF progressing.</b></li> <li>• SO Young people at risk of/ progressing to secure care / custody (Graeme Simpson).</li> </ul>	<p>JD/DM</p> <p>JF</p> <p>GS</p>
3. COVID-19	<p>An update for Justice Social Work Services (dated 3 April 2020), on the Provisions of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Bill relating to Community Orders, Parole Board, and Release of Prisoners, was considered. In relation to Aberdeen JSW Service it was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All CPO Unpaid Work had been suspended (in line with national approach). c470 existing clients were to be written to, to advise that their UPW would be extended by 12 months.</li> <li>• Social Workers were linking in with clients on CPO Supervision remotely (eg by telephone) except in relation to the most vulnerable and highest risk, where some face-to-face contact was taking place, at Spring Garden – PPE was being used as necessary.</li> <li>• It was anticipated that c20 individuals would be released from prison early. This was to enable the safe management of individuals in prison (recognising the need for social distancing etc) and to ensure the safety of prison staff. This was to take effect from end April over the next three months, and would include lower risk individuals on sentences of up to 18 months who had a maximum of three months remaining. Statutory/long term prisoners, and certain other categories of prisoners, would be excluded from eligibility. The final decision on who would be released would be made by the Governors, based on assessments of risk, etc. LS confirmed that JSW Service have capacity to provide relevant support to those released, and don't foresee any issues with this. Basic release packs would be provided to individuals. The need for people to have a phone, to enable contact with services as well as families, was recognised, and efforts were being made locally and nationally to address this.</li> <li>• Numbers of referrals for Diversion had increased, and there had been a reduction in the number of people remanded, which had implications for service resourcing. DH questioned how risk was being taken</li> </ul>	



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5. Date of next meeting	It was agreed to hold an additional meeting in approximately five weeks, given current circumstances, rather than waiting until the next planned meeting date of 1 <sup>st</sup> July. VV to arrange.	VV