

**Aberdeen Community Justice Group Meeting  
Via Microsoft Teams  
02.06.20**

<p><u>Present:</u>          (DM) Derek McGowan, Chief Officer, Early Intervention &amp; Community Empowerment, ACC          (NC) Neil Carnegie, Communities &amp; Housing Area Manager, ACC          (JD) John Donaghey, Lead Nurse, Mental Health &amp; Learning Disabilities Service, AHSCP          (CD) Claire Duncan, Lead Social Work Officer, AHSCP          (JF) Jane Fletcher, Head of Hosted Mental Health &amp; Learning Disability Services, AHSCP          (MH) Mike Hebden, Governor, HMP Grampian          (NM) Neil McDonald, Police Scotland (Chair of AVAWP)          (IM) Ian McKinnon, Police Scotland (for David Paterson)          (SM) Susan Morrison, Partnership Manager, ACVO          (LS) Lesley Simpson, CJSWS/AHSCP          (EW) Eilidh Wright, COPFS          (VV) Val Vertigans, Community Justice Officer</p>	<p><u>Apologies:</u>          (NG) Nicola Graham, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland          (DH) David Henderson, Civic Forum          (KM) Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive, Community Justice Scotland          (DP) David Paterson, T/Chief Inspector, Police Scotland</p>
---	--

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 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020	<p>The minute of meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 was approved as a correct.</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"> <li>Item 2 – Cuckooing project – update about the project and overview of relevant data – delayed to a future meeting;</li> </ul>	

Agenda Item	Discussions/Decision	Owner
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item 2 – Community Engagement – DH to consider further with Civic Forum. Sub group to report back – delayed to a future meeting;</li> <li>• Item 2 – JSWS Inspection – consideration of Data Summary – delayed to a future meeting;</li> <li>• Item 3 – Update on changes to JSW service delivery in the current circumstances – LS gave the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- not currently possible to undertake Bail Assessments;</li> <li>- potential forthcoming increase in number of CJSW Reports to be done;</li> <li>- challenging to undertaken work at Court due to social distancing requirements. Town House (where Pre-Disposal Team based) unlikely to re-open until at least September;</li> <li>- contact with clients by phone as much as possible, though looking to increase footfall to Spring Garden due to potential escalating risks relating to individuals struggling to cope with lockdown;</li> <li>- Scottish Govt had requested data regarding staffing levels and numbers of CPOs with Unpaid Work Requirements with 70% and 50% of hours completed (possibly looking at revoking some orders in order to cope with backlog/ future capacity challenges?). JSWS looking at ways of re-introducing some outdoor placements;</li> <li>- no particular issues relating to Early Release of prisoners;</li> <li>- increase being seen in numbers of cases Diverted from Prosecution by the PF.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Improvement projects were to be considered under Item 5.</p>	
3. COVID-19: Update from partners	<p>Partners gave verbal updates, including the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COPFS (EW) - some guilty pleas were now being dealt with in Court (since last week) – there had been good take-up by defence solicitors. Sheriffs were trying to dispose of cases there and then where possible. Aberdeen had the lowest number of unmarked cases. Guidance re detaining people in police custody had led to an increase in numbers released on undertaking, however a recent increase in custodies had been seen. Virtual Summary Court to be piloted in Aberdeen and Inverness – all parties attending ‘virtually’/from different locations. Will assist with catching up with backlog.</li> <li>• VAWP (NM) - two meetings had been held since NM became Chair. Concerns regarding increase in abuse behind closed doors during lockdown. Media campaign to raise awareness, and internal</li> </ul>	

Agenda Item	Discussions/Decision	Owner
	<p>communication across partners. Data to be monitored. VAW considered as part of a Risk Register to the COG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Mental Health and Learning Disability services (JD) - community services had been restructured. Appointments were a mixture of face-to-face, use of Near Me technology, and telephone. Increase in demand relating to anxiety and depression was anticipated. Most scripts were being given to cover longer periods (max 56 days). Issue with pathway through SM services – GPs not wanting people attending surgeries. Lots of face-to-face contact in relation to clients with learning disabilities.</li> <li>• Hosted Mental Health and Learning Disability Services (JF) - services were currently seeing a relatively high rate of admissions (of those assessed). Looking at ways of setting up the hospital, to take account of social distancing. Increased demand anticipated. Changes in ways of working, ie use of technology, to be built on going forwards. (CAMHS waiting times had reduced dramatically.)</li> <li>• Police Scotland (IM) - change of approach from Engage Explore Encourage Enforce to Engage Explore Encourage (Enforce).</li> <li>• HMP Grampian (MH) - use of technology being progressed, eg preparation for introduction of 2G phones for prisoners in cells, and virtual visits. One confirmed case of prisoner with COVID, two staff members. Prison numbers had reduced: 27 individuals had been liberated under Early Release (24 men, 3 women); move away from presumption against HDC; reduced court activity. Virtual Courts were proceeding, although when they were held earlier in the day, custodies were not able to return to Aberdeen until late due to bus times, which led to issues in accessing services. Good practice developed relating to throughcare. Case Management Boards to be reinstated. Activities being provided for prisoners in cells, plus outdoor exercise in small groups, essential work parties continuing. Reduced violence and self-harming being seen. Looking at Fife College and Social Work returning to work in the prison.</li> <li>• JSW (LS) – less mental health/ alcohol and drug issues than might have anticipated. Aim to support people to continue these behaviours.</li> <li>• ASB/Housing (NC) – ASBIT providing phone response. Housing services looking to increase face-to-face engagement. City Wardens providing limited service, mostly around car parking. Business as usual for Prison Liaison officer and SOLO.</li> <li>• Third Sector (SM) – ACVO were distributing Anchor Funding of £100k (requests had been received for double that amount). Partners reporting issues relating to digital working.</li> </ul>	

Agenda Item	Discussions/Decision	Owner
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult Social Care (CD) – increase in demand anticipated (Police Concern Reports, Adult Support &amp; Protection) as services return to more face-to-face and other contact. Mass COVID testing in residential services, plus all staff to be tested weekly. Looking at how to reinstate services.</li> </ul>	
4. Case Study	A case study regarding Ms X, who had been sexually assaulted at the age of 16, was noted. The case had taken four years to conclude, and Ms X had experienced significant challenges, in terms of the response of the Justice System, during this time. Ms X was keen for her case to be used to improve the response for others. CD agreed to bring together a group to identify where improvements could be made. DM agreed to bring the case to the attention of the Chair of the Chief Officers’ Group – there was potential for it to be used to inform service-redesign.	CD/DM
5. LOIP projects	<p>a) <u>Alignment of LOIP projects to National CJ Outcomes</u> A schedule showing the alignment of LOIP improvement projects with the outcomes in the national Community Justice Outcomes and Performance Framework was noted. Project leads to reflect on how effectively projects focused on person-centric outcomes.</p> <p>b) <u>Current status of projects</u> There was little activity being formally progressed by the improvement projects, however learning was taking place eg in relation to prison liberations, diversion, etc. It was proposed that project teams would need to review/ capture such learning to inform the future progression/ direction of projects.</p>	Improvement Project Leads
6. Date of next meeting	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020, 9.30 – 11am, via Teams.	
7. ADP Minutes	The minutes of the ADP meeting held on 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2020 were noted.	
8. VAWP Minutes	<p>The following minutes of the Violence Against Women Partnership meetings were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 21st January 2020;</li> <li>- 21st April 2020;</li> <li>- 21st May 2020 (draft).</li> </ul>	