

Aberdeen Community Justice Group Meeting
Via Microsoft Teams
1/10/20

<p><u>Present:</u> (DM) Derek McGowan, Chief Officer, Early Intervention & Community Empowerment, ACC (CHAIR) (JF) Jane Fletcher, Head of Hosted Mental Health & Learning Disability Services, AHSCP (NG) Nicola Graham, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland (NM) Neil McDonald, Police Scotland (Chair of AVAWP) (SM) Susan Morrison, Partnership Manager, ACVO (DP) David Paterson, T/Chief Inspector, Police Scotland (SR) Simon Rayner, ADP (LS) Lesley Simpson, CJSWS/AHSCP (ES) Eilidh Smith, SPS (for Mike Hebden) (VV) Val Vertigans, Community Justice Officer</p>	<p><u>Apologies:</u> Claire Duncan, AHSCP Mike Hebden, Governor, HMP Grampian David Henderson, Civic Forum Eilidh Wright, COPFS</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 28 th Aug 2020	<p>The minute of meeting held on 28th August 2020 was approved as a correct record.</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 2 – Community Engagement – DH to consider further with Civic Forum. Sub group to report back – delayed to a future meeting; • Item 2 - Performance management process and tools to enable the refocussing of resourcing towards preventative spend, and improved demand management – o/s; • Item 3 – LOIP Projects – Lead for Hate Crime project to be agreed; • Item 3 – LOIP Projects – VV had circulated a reminder to project leads about the CPA Management Group ‘ask’ that the involvement of community members, or representatives from relevant ‘communities of interest’, should be ensured, and that links be made to CPA localities, as appropriate; • Item 4 – COVID 19 – a paper providing assurance to the COG regarding the mitigation of risks in relation to the potential for more ‘higher risk’ individuals being in the community due to the significant delays 	DM

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	<p>being experienced in the justice system/Courts due to COVID – on the agenda for today’s meeting, but to be deferred to the next meeting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 4 – COVID 19 – JSWS Inspection – LS advised that the inspection, which had started (file reading) prior to COVID, was to be resumed ‘virtually’. Interviews with service users were to be held during week commencing 26th October, and with staff and partners the following week. The final report was likely to be published early in 2021. 	CD
3. LOIP Project Update Sessions	Notes of the Project Update Sessions held on 9 th , 11 th , 15 th and 28 th September were noted. It was felt that these sessions had been beneficial in terms of sharing implications of COVID and supporting project leads to develop new charters.	
4. LOIP Project Updates i) Alcohol & Drugs	<p>SR presented an update on the project to <i>Increase the uptake and retention of people in the Justice System with drug and alcohol related problems in specialist substance use services by 100% by 2021.</i></p> <p>Challenges arising due to COVID which had impacted on the project included lack of access to Police Custody Suite (which was now starting to open up to partners), and ability to ensure support to individuals liberated from prison, including those on remand (five drug-related deaths of people liberated from prison had occurred during the period). Agencies had responded by working effectively together, particularly in relation to the ‘Early Release’ of some short term prisoners.</p> <p>SR highlighted close links/potential overlaps between this project and others relating to mental health (JF and JD), voluntary throughcare (MH) and reducing repeat offending (LS), and proposed that discussions be held with regards to streamlining the work in order to avoid ‘silos’ and the potential for duplication, with a view to moving towards a single system – especially as some of the same people were involved in the different projects. SR to come back to the next meeting with proposals as to how to take this forward.</p>	SR
ii) Support for Families	<p>SM presented an update on the project to <i>Increase the number of family members of people affected by imprisonment, who have received appropriate and timely support from Families Outside, Family Centre & Help Hub (Action for Children), and Alcohol & Drugs Action by 20% by 2021.</i></p> <p>SM advised that prior to COVID the organisations involved had been looking to reinvigorate the project, further to experiencing capacity issues during 2019. Prison visiting had been halted during COVID, but Families Outside and Action for Children had continued to provide a service using non face-to-face methods. The project team had met recently, reviewed the Change Ideas and agreed a way forward.</p>	

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5) Draft charters for approval	<p>Draft charters for the following LOIP improvement aims were considered, and comments made.</p> <p><u>i) Using a whole population approach: i) Increase awareness of domestic abuse by 2021; ii) reduce number of children who are witness to domestic abuse by 2022; ii) decrease number of reported incidents by 30% by 2026</u> – A draft charter for this project had been submitted to the last meeting of the CPA Management Group, but had not been endorsed. The feedback had been that the scope was too broad and that it should be broken down into more manageable chunks. The work was therefore being taken forward via three projects: a) awareness-raising (L McNicol); b) Support for people harmed (I McDonnell – draft charter not yet available); and c) Early intervention with perpetrators. NG proposed that a rep from Education be included in the project team for project a).</p> <p><u>ii) Extend the multi-agency problem solving approach to all 16 and 17 year olds charged with an offence to reduce the likelihood of reoffending by 2021</u> (J Milne – draft charter not yet available) – VV noted that the focus of this project was on the ‘higher tariff’ end of the Whole System Approach, eg young people at risk of and in secure care and custody.</p> <p><u>iii) Increase number of young people who need support in relation to trauma and bereavement having access to such support by 2021</u> (J Aitken)</p> <p><u>iv) 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</u> (L Simpson)</p> <p><u>v) i) Increase the number of awareness-raising events relating to ‘digital’ offending by 2021, and then ii) reduce the number of ‘digital’ offences from 2021 – 2026</u> (D Paterson) – it was noted that there were low levels of ‘sexting’ offences, but that this could be due to under-reporting (due to lack of understanding of the criminal nature of such activities). NG proposed that links could be made to another charter regarding Foundation Apprenticeships which was seeking work-based challenges for groups of S5s and S6s, eg in relation to seeking feedback from young people about the issue, development of an App, etc. DP and NG to liaise.</p> <p><u>vi) Reduce the number of wilful fires by 20% by March 2021</u> (S Symon) – queries were raised regarding the short timescale of the project, and the extent to which the proposed change ideas were ‘business as usual’ for SFRS.</p> <p>VV highlighted that CPA timescales required submission of charters within the next few days.</p>	DP/NG

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6. COVID 19 – Significant Partner Updates	JF advised that services were working to reinstate face-to-face provision.	
7. Remand Population	<p>VV presented a paper highlighting issues caused by the increase in the number of people remanded in custody – both in terms of numbers and length of remands. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impacts on the prison estate; and - lack of dedicated support for people liberated from remand. <p>This issue had been raised at a national level, and a request had been made by Community Justice Scotland for the areas where the volume of remands were highest to consider the reasons for this and potential actions to mitigate. The response to this request formed an appendix to the paper submitted to this meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that a short life working group be established to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) pathways for individuals on remand, communication with key partners to allow increased Bail supervision and solicitors role in supporting access to appropriate services, existing resource available, gaps and appropriate funding applications; ii) identification of suitable resources and funding to support those on remand providing appropriate release pathways with partners in Aberdeen City; and iii) establishment of common concerns with other areas and identify suitable escalation opportunities, highlighting potential solutions. <p>It was agreed that partners should advise VV if they wished to be part of the working group, and that VV should invite Sheriff McLaughlin, and representation from CJS, to be part of the group.</p>	VV
8. Date of next meeting	Wednesday 2nd December 2020, 9.30 – 11 am, via Teams.	
9. VAWP Minutes	The action note from the meeting of the VAWP held on Thursday 27th August, 10am-12pm was noted.	