

COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Meeting of the Community Justice Partnership held in Committee Room 2 in Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Thursday 2 June, 2016 at 10.30am.

PRESENT

Mr D Millar, Highland Council
Mrs I Campbell, Highland Council
Mr L Fraser, Highland Council
Mr G Rimell, Highland Council
Mrs F Robertson, Highland Council
Mrs I McCallum, Highland Council

Detective Supt C Carey, Police Scotland
Mr M Holloway, Scottish Prison Service
Mr M MacBean, Victim Support Scotland
Mr A Macdonald, Apex Scotland
Ms J Macdonald, NHS Highland

Officials in attendance:-

Ms F Palin, Head of Adult Services, Care and Learning Service, Highland Council
Mr J Maybee, Principal Officer, Criminal Justice, Highland Council
Ms A Macrae, Committee Administrator, Highland Council

1. Appointment of Chair

On the motion of Mrs I McCallum seconded by Mrs I Campbell the Partnership **AGREED** to appoint Mr D Millar as Chair.

2. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Supt R McKillop, Police Scotland.

The Director of Adult Social Care, NHS Highland explained that NHS Highland's Committee Chairs were in the process of being refreshed and that a non-executive representative would be in attendance at the next meeting.

The Head of Adult Services, Highland Council clarified that the composition of the Partnership also included two members from the Highland Third Sector Interface.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Terms of Reference

There had been circulated for approval terms of reference for the Community Justice Partnership.

The Partnership **APPROVED** the terms of reference as circulated.

5. Transition Arrangements

There had been circulated Report No CJP/01/16 dated 24 May 2016 by the Director of Care and Learning which outlined the progress made in moving to local planning and delivery of Community Justice in Highland. A project manager has been appointed to

support the Partnership in developing a Community Justice Plan for Highland for 2017/18 following the submission of the Transition Plan to Scottish Government in January 2016.

The report highlighted that:-

- an Officer Group had been established to support the Partnership details of which were provided in the report;
- a key task for the Community Justice Partnership in Highland was to agree on actions for the Partnership Improvement plan which should be submitted to the Scottish Government by December 2016;
- the transitional funding received from the Scottish Government had been used to establish the post of Project Manager in the Third Sector Interface with the remit of consulting with communities across Highland and developing a plan for Community Justice in Highland;
- it was essential within the new arrangements there was a shift away from Criminal Justice Social Work to equally encompass all community justice agencies and wider Community Justice outcomes across the Partnership;
- after 31 March 2017 the ring-fenced Section 27 statutory funding would be allocated directly to local authorities for the delivery of statutory criminal justice social work services;
- In regard to the above the national funding formula was being reviewed, and it was intended to implement any resulting changes alongside the introduction of the new model,; and
- In addition the intention of the new model was that contributions to 'Community Justice', for example by sharing staff, expertise, information, property, and finance to deliver the National Strategy and the related outcomes, and performance and improvement framework was the responsibility of all partners equally.

The Chair explained that confirmation in regard to the six Council Members who would be appointed to the Partnership would be provided at the next meeting, noting that applications were to be considered by the Council's Appointments Panel for External Organisations/Arm's Length organisations to ensure the representatives had the appropriate skills set. He explained in the meantime temporary arrangements had been made to ensure the Council was fully represented at the first meeting of the Partnership.

In discussion, concern was expressed at the impact the new funding formula for criminal justice social work services would have in Highland. The Principal Officer explained the formula would be based on an equal split between workload and socio economic factors and that as a result some local authorities were set to gain significant additional funding with others likely to experience significant reductions. The implications for Highland were not yet known but it was anticipated that an indication would become available within the next two months. There would also be a transition period of three or five years to protect those local authorities set to experience significant reductions in their funding.

Discussion then followed in regard to progress on the requirement that the Partnership agree on actions for the Partnership Improvement Plan to be submitted to the Scottish Government by December 2016. In response it was explained that in terms of the relevant guidelines the Officer Group would in the first instance consider the areas of focus within the Plan and how they could be managed within the available resources.

Thereafter, the Partnership **NOTED** the plans for developing a Community Justice Plan and the importance of the focus moving from Criminal Justice Social Work to all services and agencies within Community Planning that contribute to Community Justice in Highland.

6. Outcomes and Performance Improvement Network

There had been circulated Report No CJP/02/16 dated 18 May 2016 by the Director of Care and Learning which provided an overview of the Community Justice Outcomes and Performance Improvement Framework and the plans for taking this forward within Highland. It was noted that the Framework was still a draft document at this time.

The report advised that the outcomes were divided into structural outcomes and person centred outcomes, details of which were provided. In addition the performance framework and model required that community justice partners worked with the Third Sector, community bodies, people with lived experience, the wider community and other stakeholders to:-

- develop a 'community justice needs assessment' of their local community, using existing profiles and available data;
- understand how current services are meeting these needs and whether the required benefits are being realised;
- baseline achievements against each of the common Structural and Person-centred Outcomes, using the national indicators and identify priorities for action against both these and the improvement actions contained within the National Strategy for Community Justice;
- detail priorities for action in a local Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan;
- monitor delivery and achievement; and
- report on progress on an annual basis.

The Partnership was advised that to achieve the outcomes within Highland it was proposed that a sub group be established led by the Project Manager which would consider how each agency could contribute effectively to the new performance framework for Community Justice currently in development.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- it was reported that NHS Highland (Public Health) held a wealth of information at a local level which was readily available to support the work of the sub-group;
- clarification was sought in regard to the current status of the draft logic model; the Principal Officer advised the intention was that each individual Community Justice Partnership would be required to develop its own logic model;
- in terms of the definition of 'communities' in the report it was explained this referred to communities across Highland in the broadest sense e.g. members of the public, stakeholders, statutory and non-statutory agencies, and offenders;
- a point that there was already effective partnership working in place which could be used as a starting point, reference being made to the multi- agency approach to anti-social behaviour; and
- in response to a question confirmation was provided that the Community Justice Project Manager and Principal Officer would take forward the proposal to set up a small sub group as outlined in the report.

The Partnership **NOTED** the report and **AGREED** that a small sub group be established to consider how agencies across Highland could contribute to the new performance framework for Community Justice currently in development.

7. Community Justice Engagement Strategy

There had been circulated Report No CJP/03/16 dated 17 May 2016 by the Director of Care and Learning which provided an overview of the Community Justice Engagement Strategy for Highland and outlined proposals to engage with partners both statutory and non-statutory, victims, offenders and the general public.

In presenting the report the Head of Adult Services advised that it was proposed to hold a series of smaller engagement events in a number of locations in Highland in June 2016, details of which were provided in the report and at which it was anticipated there would be a representation from statutory and non-statutory agencies. Further to this there were plans for a larger engagement event to be held in Inverness in September 2016, enabling attendance from the statutory and non-statutory agencies in and around the Inverness, Ross-shire and Badenoch/Strathspey areas. A copy of the draft agenda was attached as appendix 1 to the report. The report also set out proposals for engagement with victims, offenders and the general public.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- clarification was sought and provided that other parties such as community representatives and members of the public could attend and participate in the engagement events;
- a point was raised in regard to the potential for the smaller engagement events to be attached to other meetings within localities to encourage and maximise participation, for example Local Committees, District Partnerships;
- in response to a question it was explained that the purpose of the engagement events would be to discuss community justice services in the widest sense across the range of agencies; the views of communities would also be sought on how to prevent offending and reoffending, and on how to support offenders and victims;
- it was important that the engagement events covered all areas in Highland; it was explained that while the report provided a snap shot of localities in this regard, the proposal would be to engage with all areas in Highland and that this would be an ongoing process and would also be a key task of the Project Manager;
- a point that in Ward 11: Eilean a' Cheò the community councils attended the ward forums and therefore this would provide an excellent opportunity to consolidate meetings in terms of the engagement on community justice and that the local Members could assist in the organisation in this regard;
- a point in regard to how issues around local knowledge and individual persons being identified in terms of engagement in smaller communities could be addressed;
- reference was made to the challenges associated with reaching some communities in Highland particularly in the more rural areas where the population was widely dispersed across a large geographical area;
- it was suggested that the potential for briefings to be provided to community councils on community justice be explored;
- it was suggested that the engagement proposals represented a significant opportunity to change attitudes and mind-sets going forward into the future; and
- a request that the Partnership be informed once a date had been confirmed for

the larger engagement event to be held in Inverness in September 2016.

Thereafter, the Partnership **AGREED** on the plans to engage with Partners, Victims, Offenders and the General Public on development of the Community Justice Plan in Highland.

The meeting ended at 11.15am.