

Highland Community Justice Partnership

Minutes of Meeting held 12 September 2018

Present: Philip MacRae Police Scotland (Chair) James Maybee Highland Council, Derek Wilson SFRS, Alistair McDonald Apex Highland, Malcolm MacBean VSS, Debbie Stewart HADP, Cllr Margaret Paterson Highland Council,

In Attendance: Mhairi Wylie HTSI, Margaret McShane HTSI, Leah Ganley HTSI

1. Apologies:

Stephen Coyle SPS, Roddy Bailey SDS, Ruth Thomson SCTS, David Alston NHS, Alan McGillivray DWP, Libby Blich Libertie Project, Ruth McDonald SCRA, Joanna Macdonald NHS, David Goldie Highland Council

Philip highlighted that whilst it cannot be expected that everyone can attend every meeting, **that there is an expectation that a representative from the agency should be sent where possible.**

Philip suggested that Elaine Mead CE of NHS be written to, to try and establish who Joanna Macdonald's replacement at the CJ Partnership will be.

Action – Margaret to draft a letter for Philip

2. Declaration of interest:

Mhairi declared that HTSI have an interest in the finance but that HTSI are not a voting member of the group.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Notes of the previous Community Justice Partnership Meeting in June were circulated for noting.

Agreed as correct.

Philip intimated that the Actions would be given a 'light touch' in this meeting and looked at in more depth in the following meeting in December.

Margaret updated that most of the Actions in the 2017-18 Plan were now green with only a few sitting at amber.

4. Community Justice Update:

Margaret provided an update including submission of the Annual Report, information around Self-evaluation which the partnership should be aware of, the Greg Berman event which would take place at the end of the month and the possibility of some guests being invited to the CJP Meetings. Margaret also mentioned the Pitch Your Problem event which had been mooted with the partnership but there had been no response to.

Action – Margaret to recirculate with examples of what this might entail

James updated that CJSW had discussed this but were struggling with the concept of Pitch Your Problem.

Debbie updated that HADP have been through 2 evaluations and may have information that may be helpful to the CJP.

Discussion took place around the panel discussion that Signpost were organising. Margaret outlined her reasons for declining the invitation on behalf of the Partnership to the panel discussion.

Apex updated that they have 3 people working with Robertson Construction on the new Justice Centre and are hoping for further opportunities.

Philip noted all the hard work done by Margaret in completing the Annual Report.

5. Review of CJ Plan 2018-21:

Margaret updated that there is nothing too concerning in the plan just now. Some of the deadlines have shifted but it is progressing steadily. Philip acknowledged this and is content that the plan is progressing – no concerns.

6. Finances:

A verbal update was provided by James. It was noted that a commitment had been received from SG for further funding for community justice for 2019/20. Philip acknowledged that we are more secure financially than we have been in previous years.

Mhairi tabled a suggestion that the Partnership now consider spending the money they are receiving as opposed to ring fencing money on a yearly basis for the CJ Partnership Manager's salary.

Agreed – by all those at the meeting that this was a more appropriate use of the funds.

Action - Philip to circulate this decision to others from the Partnership who were not present at the meeting today

Mhairi presented information proposing to use the excess funds towards the Link Worker Project.

Agreed – by all those at the meeting that the funds could be used to establish the Link Worker project.

Action – Philip to notify substantial members of the Partnership who are not present today in relation to this

7. Funding:

Philip made the meeting aware that a couple of funding requests had been received. Although unsure about the submission of ad hoc requests, there is a need to consider the merits of each and have a wider discussion around the principles needed.

- (i) Margaret provided information from the paper presented around the request for funding from Families Outside.

Discussion took place around what the policy of the CJP should be in relation to matters of funding requests.

Agreed – the process to be adopted whereby any monies to be dispersed over and above the implementation of the CJ Action Plan will be through the small change for justice process which could be held biannually.

Action – Margaret to write to Families Outside to inform them of this decision

- (ii) James provided an overview of the paper in relation to the Venture Trust and asked if there was a possibility of agencies providing phase 3 of the Chance for Change programme for 12 months as Venture Trust were no longer operating within Highland and no longer able to provide this.

Discussion took place around the inequality of service now provided throughout Scotland by the Venture Trust and that perhaps this issue should be raised with SG who fund the Chance for Change programme.

Action – Philip to write to the SG in relation to concerns over the inequality in provision of service Scotland wide

8. Employment Event:

Margaret provided information from the paper around hosting an Employment Event in 2019.

Discussion took place around who should be targeted to attend/speak at the event with several suggestions being brought forward.

Discussion also took place around whether a sub-group would be helpful in taking this work forward. Philip suggested this would be a good idea.

Action – Roddy, Stephen and Alistair to form a sub-group along with Margaret

9. Small Change for Justice Roundup Event:

Margaret presented the paper outlining the suggestion that a round up event should be held for the projects involved in the small change for justice process. This would enable the sharing of information and learning from all the projects involved.

Agreed – Event to be held in the Spring 2019

Action – Margaret to send out notification of the Roundup Event with the report template and a reminder of the need to submit their small change reports by 31 December 2018.

10. Good News Stories - Small Change for Justice Updates:

Philip provided updates in relation to Crocus and Highlife Highland

Margaret provided updates in relation to Abriachan Forest Trust and Dingwall Men's Shed

Derek provided an update from Serenity

Alistair provided an update from Newstart

No updates were available from Roddy, Joanna, Stephen nor Libby who were not present at the meeting

11. Social Media Input:

Leah provided an input around the use of social media for the partnership. She provided practical information around facebook and twitter to help enable those in the partnership to promote information around community justice through these mediums.

12. AOCB:

Margaret mentioned the following –

Whether Suzy Calder should be invited on to the partnership – It was suggested that as there is already representation at the meeting from HADP, it was felt that much of the data available could be sourced through them. Also, due to the uncertainty in relation to who would replace Joanna Macdonald from NHH at the meeting, then it was thought that it would be better to wait until this was also established to find out their view on any possible gaps.

Margaret highlighted that it may be beneficial having inputs from the following agencies at future meetings due to recent positive meetings with them and work that is ongoing, which the partnership may benefit from – Signpost, Robertson Construction and VAW Group.

Agreed - Signpost and Robertson Construction be invited to the December CJP and VAW be invited to the March CJP.

Action – Margaret to send invitations to above agencies

The partnership will meet for Christmas Lunch after the CJP in December for those who wish to attend.

Action – Margaret to circulate round the partnership and book suitable venue

Debbie spoke about the draft Alcohol & Drug Strategy which is out for comment. She will send for circulation around the partnership. Money has been allocated from the SG to implement this work and Debbie is keen to speak to the partnership in relation to this.

Action – Philip to meet with Debbie and Margaret to discuss

Malcolm mentioned a Homicide Service which has been commissioned by the SG which will be up and running by 1 April 2019. Further details to follow.

Alistair spoke about changes to the employability funds which may provide opportunities for smaller organisations. Apex are to take over the Shine contract. Further details will be known over the next few weeks.

13. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 12 December