



## **Highland Community Justice Partnership**

Minutes of Meeting held 10 June 2020

Present: Niall MacLennan, SFRS (Chair), James Maybee Highland Council, Roddy Bailey SDS, Libby Bligh Libertie project, Sally Amor NHSH, Suzy Calder NHSH, Brian McKirdy SPS, Debbie Stewart HADP, Ross McKillop Police Scotland, Debbie Delonnette Highland Council Housing.

In Attendance: Margaret McShane HTSI, Mhairi Wylie HTSI,

1. Apologies:  
Ann Dowd DWP, Lewis Hannah Highland Council, Ruth Thomson SCTS,
2. Declaration of interest:  
None.
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:  
Notes of the previous Community Justice Partnership Meeting in December were circulated for noting.

Agreed as correct, approved by Roddy and James.

### Actions from Minutes:

Action – Margaret to contact Paul (Disclosure Scotland) re training for employers

Margaret updated that she is looking at the potential to do something in relation to this digitally but still at the early stages of this – **To be done**

Action – Chair to circulate key messages to CPP & Coordination Group

Niall updated this has still to be progressed – **To be done**

*James mentioned that the Public Protection COG which covers MAPPA/Child Protection/Adult Protection and VAW also has a link to community justice and that he has a seat at that table.*

Action – James to raise the CJP at the PP COG to ensure they are fully sighted on what is happening with the Community Justice Partnership. James will raise at next PP COG -

James updated that he did raise this at the PP COG, the Chair has deferred this to a future meeting. Niall queried how we could link into this and James mentioned that it will happen incrementally.

Action – James to have a word off table with the Chair of the PP COG.

No further opportunity to do this due to Covid - **Ongoing**

Action – Sally to resend the Director of PH Report to the group

Action - Margaret to check this has been done-

Margaret updated this has been done - **Complete**

**Activity from CJ Plan:** Deliver employment training programme...

Action – Roddy & Ann to progress –

An update will be provided at the next meeting in relation to this.

No opportunity to progress due to Covid - **Ongoing**

**Activity from CJ Plan:** Develop Highland CIP

Action – SPS to provide update at next meeting – carried forward to 2020

Action - Margaret and Niall to get in touch with the new Governor or Mark Holloway

Brian McKirdy, new Governor of HMP Inverness in attendance at the meeting today

Action – Margaret to set up a meeting for Brian, Niall, James and Suzy to meet to discuss – **To be done**

Action – Aodhan to provide electronic slides around his presentation

Action – Margaret to contact Aodhan to send

Slides have now been circulated to the Partnership - **Done**

Action – ALL to consider the Outcome Indicators (Baseline 2018/19)

A general discussion took place as to whether some of the indicators need to be adjusted to reflect changes of material.

Action – Margaret to look at setting up a Sub-Group and possibly a workshop to discuss the Outcome Indicators.

Margaret to discuss with Niall – **To be done**

*There was also discussion about the procurement framework.*

*It was suggested that perhaps there is a strategic need to consider this more broadly. Mhairi suggested there is a need to understand the market as a whole.*

Action – discussion needs progressed off table perhaps at a future Development Day – still to be progressed – **To be Done**

Action – Action Plan review of new actions following the Needs Assessment which Lidia Dancu is preparing

Margaret updated that a partial draft of the report had been sent but was not in an accessible format.

Action – Margaret to circulate the Needs Assessment to the CJP once received.

Margaret updated that the report has been somewhat delayed and that the two Link Workers are currently progressing this piece of work – **To be done**

*Discussion took place about producing an executive summary for the Small Change for Justice process which would enhance the statutory agencies knowledge around this.*

Action – Margaret, Libby and Niall to discuss Jan/Feb –

Action - now to be discussed at a future Development Day – **To be done**

Action – Niall to meet with James to discuss how the CJP can drive Bail Supervision forward –

James updated that he had spoken to the Sheriffs and the general consensus was that there wouldn't be that many cases that would facilitate bail supervision. There is a possibility of a need to refresh the information for sheriffs. There are practical issues which could perhaps be discussed at a meeting. Discussion that baselines could be used.

Action – James to update and feed back from the event in relation to bail supervision on 27 March

James updated the above meeting didn't take place due to Covid but it should go ahead at a later date – **To be done**

Action – Margaret to find out if a meeting with Sheriffs could be set up to discuss the Link Workers and other items including bail supervision -

Margaret updated that a meeting had taken place with Sheriff Pyle and Audrey Bayliss which was positive. The Link Worker project, bail supervision and the new justice centre were discussed. An invitation to speak about community justice on 22 March had been extended by Sheriff Pyle but this had since been cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak – **Complete?**

Action – Margaret to contact Eden Court to see if they can host the Second Chancers exhibition – **To be done**

Action – Others to consider venues and get back to Margaret

James – Council HQ, Glen Urquhart Rd

Roddy – Outside Inverness

Libby – Albyn/Wick

Sally – Could take out

Roddy – Community Partnerships

These Actions have not been progressed as yet. Libby proposed perhaps the prison might be able to host the exhibition.

Action – Libby to look into this option – **To be done**

*Update on the VRU project in Caithness & Sutherland*

Action – Niall and Sally to take this to the CPP for information

Sally and Niall met to discuss.

Action – Niall to update the CPP – **To be done**

Action – Sally to provide information in relation to the project to Niall.

Sally updated that she had been in touch with partners and there will be a significant time delay with this. They are still looking at how stories and data can be captured. The VRU are still supporting the project – **Done**

*NHS Highland to consider providing survive and thrive group course for victims of childhood trauma – identified by service*

Action – Margaret to contact Dr Anne Galloway for an update -

Update from Dr Galloway – action point needs to be reviewed in the wider context. It was developed/put forward by Mike PERERA, I was not involved in this at all and could not agree to providing any treatment, or suggesting one, without assessing need. Given the service setting this would fall in the remit of the Forensic Psychologist possibly in collaboration with the D&A Psychologist, but we do not have either in post yet – **Done**

*Training and awareness session for employers in 3<sup>rd</sup> and private sector around employment of those with an offending history*

Action – Margaret to follow up with employers who attended the Courage of our Convictions event last November. This may also be an opportunity to involve Disclosure Scotland.

Libby intimated that she has links to 63 construction companies through her work with the employability pathway. They could be considered in this process – **To be done**

SPS data Sharing Agreement - James updated that the document is almost ready and needs to be signed off.

Action – James to progress

Document has been signed off - **Complete**

Action – Mhairi to invoice James asap (money to be used for Small Change for Justice)

Done and agreed that the money can remain where it is now - **Complete**

A discussion took place around the pros and cons of a paid chair. Niall further stated that he was willing to extend his role for a further 6 months.

Action – Margaret to draft an email in relation to the options to be sent to the wider partnership – **Complete**

Margaret mentioned to the Partnership about their thoughts & expectations around the Justice Centre and what that might mean for community justice.

Action – Margaret to email the wider Partnership in this regard

**Complete**

Ross mentioned that he had been asked about the benefits of realisation for the Justice Centre and perhaps this linked into this piece of work.

Action – Niall, James and Margaret to have a discussion around this - **To be done**

Sally mentioned the work of the VRU, ACEs, Criminal Solicitors and different approaches around trauma informed working.

James mentioned that a benefits tracker was in place at the outset of the meetings around the justice centre to capture good outcomes from partners and that there is perhaps some pressure to demonstrate the outcomes for the centre. He suggested that perhaps the Chair could contact Sheriff Pyle to intimate that the CJP is interested in assisting with if they can.

Action – Niall to contact Sheriff Pyle, Margaret offered to assist

Sally offered assistance in terms of any public health approach – **To be done**

#### 4. Community Justice Update:

Margaret spoke to the update that had been circulated, no questions around this.

James updated that a national meeting around Early Emergency Release Lessons Learned was due to take place this week. On the whole things had gone well in Highland and much effort had gone into this. The question is should we try and sustain this for all short-term prisoners and this links into the Community Integration Plan which SPS (Stephen Coyle) had proposed in our CJ Plan.

Suzy updated that NHS had not seemed to be considered in terms of information around those being released. They play a key role in the prison setting and this posed challenges around prescriptions and how this was managed.

Brian intimated it had been a learning curve and that Governors had the power to veto releases but was hopeful that we could build on the positives. He is happy to support 100% and get involved.

Niall questioned how the Partnership could progress this and it was agreed that this could be discussed at the meeting proposed earlier between himself, Brian, James, Suzy & Margaret.

Libby mentioned the research The Libertie Project have carried out with the remand population which she is happy to share if it will assist with the lessons learned.

Action – Libby to send to James – **To Be done**

It was agreed that there was no point in circulating the survey that had been proposed in relation to lessons learned.

Debbie Stewart mentioned information from the NHS Inform website which she would like to circulate to the Partnership

Action – Debbie to send to Margaret for circulation – **To be done**

5. Changes to Working & Delivery Practices:

Niall invited updates from those present -

**Sally** – The project with the VRU has stalled but this shouldn't be taken as a lack of interest or faith as we would wait and see how things unfold.

The Highland Child Protection Committee have agreed work with the Public Protection Unit of the police around county lines and cuckooing involving vulnerable people. This crosses over with the work of the CJP and HADP, an update will be provided at the next meeting.

**Brian** – Virtual visits will be starting in HMP Inverness on 23 June. This will be a dedicated system which will be in place for the foreseeable future.

**James** – Criminal Justice are working remotely and priority of service is for those at higher risk or more vulnerable. There are challenges with unpaid work & CPO in terms of capacity to carry this out. There are currently 30,000 hours of unpaid work in Highland and 700,000 across Scotland. Other parts of the legislation may have to be used to create capacity. More contact is required and programmes such as Caledonian and Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) have been put on hold. The Courts are also facing a backlog of summary business which will also have an effect.

James made a plea for any third sector agency who could assist with unpaid work placements would be appreciated.

*Niall asked that people contact James direct or Margaret in relation to this.*

*Mhairi offered assistance to James with this.*

**Roddy** – SDS have a helpline for those who are vulnerable and asked partners to circulate the helpline to those they are working with.

**Suzy** – Drug & alcohol services are open as usual although no face to face contact is taking place. Osprey House is open 7 days and they will be working a new shift pattern from the end of June. They are still assessing etc. and asked that partners remind people that this is the case. Custody remains busy. Non-drug treatment organisations can provide naloxone.

Action – Margaret/Mhairi to contact Suzy re naloxone training for Custody Link Workers – **To be done**

In terms of Saturday Courts which is being proposed, prison healthcare and consultation with partners would be helpful.

**Debbie Delonnette** – Housing demands since Covid have increased dramatically and this has had an impact on those being released from prison.

**Niall** – SFRS are open for business as usual.

**Ross** – There had been a lull in the volume of crime except serious crime, but this is now starting to pick up.

**Libby** – The Partnership can make referrals to us for family packs/creative packs/prisoner packs. We have digital contact boxes containing a smartphone or tablet for those with challenges with access to this. Support is also being provided for them.

Any assistance with distribution would be appreciated.

*Mhairi mentioned the Council are also putting out digital items.*

*Niall intimated that SFRS can assist with any distribution.*

6. Finances:

James updated the meeting that the SG had confirmed an additional £12.5K for each CJP in Scotland. It's unlikely that this will have any strings attached. James will report on how the previous year's £50K has been spent. Through the ledger - £45,009 which includes Margaret's post. A further £5K has been earmarked for research of the Custody Link Worker Project. Further information can be supplied.

Mhairi asked about the position with the ECO within the Council and the structure. James mentioned there is a transition period and the Executive Chief Officer is Lesley Weber but he is unaware of the structure for health and social. Criminal Justice will sit where it does now.

7. Chair 2020/21:

Niall spoke about the Partnership being asked their views on the Chair position, the 3 options – rotation, 18-month tenure, paid chair. Margaret confirmed the results as the most popular: 18-month tenure, then rotation, then paid chair.

James updated that he would have difficulty taking over the chair in September due to other commitments and would be extremely problematic.

Mhairi mentioned that Niall had done an exemplary job and there would be difficulty around this as everyone is busy. The Partnership need to look at capacity or go back to the CPP and ask them to appoint a chair. The prospect of an independent chair needs to be looked at.

If no chair is appointed the coordinator could potentially pick up the slack and as Margaret's line manager, she has a difficulty with that.

Action – Niall to discuss with James and Mhairi – **To be done**

8. AOCB:

Margaret mentioned the CJ Annual report which is due in September. She will be contacting people shortly to assist with the data collection etc. Assistance with this would be appreciated.

Niall mentioned the Community Justice Scotland Annual Report which was circulated which is worth looking at and will be useful for planning in the future.

9. Date of Next Meeting:  
**17 September 20, 1400 – 1600, potentially virtual on Teams**