



Highland Community Justice Partnership

Minutes of Meeting held 18 March 2021, virtually on MS Teams

Present: Niall MacLennan, SFRS (Chair), Ross MacKillop, Brian McKirdy SPS, Roddy Bailey SDS, Libby Bligh Libertie, Jonathan Golder DWP, Sally Amor NHSH,

In Attendance: Margaret McShane HTSI, Mhairi Wylie HTSI, Alan Grant HTSI

1. Apologies:
Lyndsey Mateer Highland Council Housing, Debbie Stewart HADP, James Maybee Highland Council, Suzy Calder, NHSH
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.
4. Community Justice Update:
Margaret spoke to the update that had been circulated.

Particular mention was made of the information in relation to the reduction in CPO hours, the date for the input from Azets on 20 April and the information gleaned from the CJP Partnership and agency surveys that had been sent out in late 2020.
5. Chair's Meeting with CJS:
Niall updated the meeting that several topics had been covered in the Chairs Meeting with Community Justice Scotland including the Community Justice Annual Report which CJS compile, their intentions around training and the survey that CJS had carried out with those living in Highland in relation to attitudes and perceptions of community justice. It is thought that if the CJP are to compile a communications strategy the results of this could be helpful.

Action - Niall to circulate a summary of the key points of the meeting and circulate to the partnership

6. Achievement Report:

Margaret spoke to the report that had already been circulated outlining the achievements of the partnership during the lifetime of the current plan 2018-21.

The report was approved for wider circulation by the partnership.

Action – Margaret to upload the report on CPP website and circulate to CJP/Third Sector/CJ Newsletter and CJS

Mhairi mentioned whether it should be circulated as a circular to the CPP Board.

Action – Niall to circulate to the CPP Board

7. CJ Plan 2018-21 Extension for Approval:

Margaret spoke to the Extension to the CJ Plan which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The partnership approved the extension in principle and agreed for its submission to CJS by 31 March following a final draft being circulated to the group.

Sally queried whether something around trauma informed response could be included in the cross-cutting themes.

Action – Include Trauma Informed Practice in cross-cutting themes – Margaret

8. Analyst Update:

Margaret spoke to the progress of the work being carried out by Azets in relation to the strengths and needs assessment/data analysis. The data collection is almost complete and the process of wrangling the data will begin shortly. A MS Teams presentation of the findings will take place for the partnership and wider CPP members on 20 April from 1000 – 1130.

Mhairi updated that the report will produce 2 aspects, one which is a high-level trend analysis. The other will consist of key information being combined to produce a report card score (single index score) which can be used to benchmark Highland's position within Scotland.

The information will also produce a 10-year trend and should inform how Highland has been doing.

9. Custody Link Worker Update:

Alan spoke to the report that had been circulated. He also thanked Libby for the work being done around Smart Phones for Smart Justice which has enabled the Link Workers to contact those without a phone. Alan also thanked Insp Peter Hindley from the police for reviewing the referral process which has led to an increase in referrals.

Reflective practice/review sessions are being carried out which is providing themes for the project moving forward.

Lack of coordination between agencies has been highlighted, not as a criticism – agencies are doing what they are expected to do, but there seems to be little coordination between them.

From case studies that have been looked at, it appears that service providers are following processes and not necessarily adopting a trauma informed approach.

Identifying the gaps is not an issue, finding the joins between services is. There is much more provision of support to people in crisis having to be provided than first thought.

Other points picked up on through discussion –

- Discussion to take place at CJP level as to how partners can work better together
- Those in higher levels of crisis are perhaps remaining there as services are not linking up
- No support in the community for some
- Important to capture stories and share them in relation to the impact of services
- Look at De-brief process to capture learning quickly
- How services respond to vulnerability is critical
- Trust is important – ask what do they want to happen, rather being asked to repeat their stories

Mhairi mentioned that in terms of the service perspective -v- user experience, reality is probably somewhere in the middle. Are services which are easy to deliver being provided rather than what is needed?

Appointment schedules – 3 strikes and you're out is not helpful. From the reflections, it's reassuring to know that people find the experience of custody okay.

In relation to the Link Worker based approach, these posts are not providing a service as such and this is an issue. There is a meeting on 21 April to look at service delivery/link worker provision.

Insp Judy Hill is currently mapping service delivery.

Libby mentioned that the stats around the increase in mental ill health show that pre-covid it was 15 – 25%, since covid this is now 60 – 68%.

The World Health Organisation reports that 130 countries around the world are seeing a dramatic increase in demand for MH services and asking how they are going to deal with this.

21% of people going to work had suicidal thoughts. As furlough comes to an end there is a prediction of higher levels of stress.

Niall mentioned all of this information would fit with the development of the new CJ Plan.

Mhairi mentioned Caithness and the work being carried out there, that bursts of activity which are not cohesive in engaging the right people can do more harm than good. It can be difficult to measure impact, and perhaps lessons could be learned from the Custody Link Project in terms of sustainable change.

Niall mentioned that the yearly review of the Custody Link Project could be used to capture this as a form of 'Good Practice'.

Sally mentioned the link to the input from CJS which featured Sir Harry Burns & Fr Gregory Boyle and was worth listening to -

<https://youtu.be/kmkNDHuU924>

10. Finance:

James wasn't present to provide an update.

Action – Margaret to contact James for an update and circulate to the Partnership

11. Development of new CJ Plan:

Niall updated the meeting that Development Circles have already taken place in relation to the extension and development of the new plan from 2022 onwards. At present we have 3 priorities, and we need to consider what we retain going forward into the new plan.

Inputs from partners and what their organisations can contribute will be important. We might want to consider a template form with what we are looking for and consider national discussions including those of CJS.

Margaret updated the meeting in relation to the Recover Renew and Transform (RRT) information which had been discussed at a recent meeting of CJ Coordinators. The Courts are looking to open additional courts from September 2021 to address the backlog –

1.2k for High Court trials, 16k for Sheriff & Jury trials, 35k for Summary trials.

An additional 4 High Courts = 20, an additional 2 Solemn Courts = 20 and an additional 10 Summary Courts = 43.

With the throughput from the additional Summary Courts this could have an impact on community justice as there are still 750k hours of unpaid work outstanding.

The remand figure has also increased from 19% pre-covid to 26%. Prison recall is also now over 18%.

The above information will need to be taken into consideration when compiling the new plan.

Action – Margaret to circulate the information from the Coordinator's Meeting to the CJP

Niall emphasised the importance of attendance at the Development Circles where discussion will continue in relation to RRT.

12. AOCB

Mhairi updated the meeting that Feis Rois have received funding to employ an artist to work creatively to support a group with lived experience of the justice system. Margaret will be involved in this piece of work.

Ross updated that harm prevention will be an important part in future work of the police and that his replacement Supt Lindsay Tulloch will oversee this.

Mhairi acknowledged a huge thanks to Niall from herself, Margaret and all of the Community Justice Partnership for his commitment and contribution as Chair over the past couple of years.

Niall updated that Ross will be taking over as Independent Chair from April and acknowledged that he has a lot of experience and progressive ideas to bring to the role and he wishes him well.

13. Date of next CJP Meetings:

Wed 16 June 1030 – 1230

Wed 8 September 1030 – 1230

Wed 8 December 1100 – 1300



Action Table

| No | Action | Who | Due Date | Update |
|-------|--|----------------------------|----------|--|
| 1/20 | Training for employers | Margaret | | Mar '21, Paul McCann at Disclosure Scotland to get back re a digital programme - Ongoing |
| 3/20 | Delivery of employment training programme | Roddy & Jonathan | | Mar '21, Roddy to review and discuss with Jonathan at DWP |
| 4/20 | Discussion around procurement framework | All | | Mar '21, Carried forward to development session |
| 5/20 | Executive summary of findings following Small Change for Justice | All | | Mar '21, Carried forward to development session |
| 6/20 | Discussion re. Bail Supervision following national event | Niall & James | | Mar '21, Event on hold due to Covid-19 |
| 7/20 | Second Chancers Exhibition II, contact Eden Court | Margaret | | Mar '21, On hold due to Covid-19 |
| | Venues to be considered | James, Roddy, Libby, Sally | | Mar '21, On hold due to Covid-19 |
| 8/20 | Update to CPP re. VRU project in Caithness & Sutherland | Niall | | Mar '21, To be done Still at the planning stage, discussions with police and VRU ongoing. |
| 9/20 | Follow up with employers who attended Courage of our Convictions event | Margaret | | Mar '21, Linked to Action 1, will be followed up |
| 14/20 | Custody Link information to be circulated to CJP | Mhairi, Alan | | Mar '21, Yearly update - To be done |
| 18/20 | Look at different format for CJ Newsletter | Margaret | | Mar '21 Potentially Feb/Mar, ongoing |
| 19/20 | Review communication of CJP information | All | | Mar '21 Ongoing – Comms Strategy for new CJ Plan |

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| 21/20 | Information around young people transitioning to adult services (trauma informed approach) to be sent to Niall & Margaret | Sally | | Mar '21, Information from Sentencing Council – look at this as part of new plan – A22/20 |
| 22/20 | Request to CJP for ideas for the interim plan | Margaret | | Mar '21, Ongoing, see above |
| 23/20 | Details of finances in relation to the Chair post to be provided to the CJP | Mhairi | | Mar '21 Complete |
| 24/20 | Contact to be made with participants of Small Change for Justice to ascertain if they can still deliver their original proposals | Margaret | | Mar '21 Complete |
| 26/20 | Further information re. Link Worker project to be circulated following the meeting | Margaret | | Mar '21 Complete |
| 27/20 | Feed back to Margaret regarding the proposal to fund analytical work | All | | Mar '21 Complete |
| 28/20 | Brian to send Niall information around the Princes Trust | Brian | | Mar '21 Complete |
| 29/20 | Niall, Mhairi and Margaret to discuss plan for development sessions to be held on Teams | Niall, Mhairi, Margaret | | Mar '21 Complete |
| 30/20 | Margaret to circulate the flyer of the Café to the group with opening times etc. | Margaret | | Mar '21 Complete |
| 31/20 | Niall to write to Sheriff Pyle with the request for attendance of a Sheriff at the CJP Meetings | Niall | | Mar '21 Complete |
| 1/21 | Niall to circulate key points of the Chairs Meeting with CJS to the CJP | Niall | | |
| 2/21 | Achievement report to be circulated to CJS etc. | Margaret | | |
| 3/21 | Achievement report to be circulated to CPP Board | Niall | | |
| 4/21 | Include Trauma Informed Practice in cross-cutting themes of CJ Plan extension | Margaret | | |
| 5/21 | Margaret to request finance update from James & circulate to CJP | Margaret | | |
| 6/21 | Margaret to circulate information in relation to RRT to CJP | Margaret | | |
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