



## **Highland Community Justice Partnership**

Minutes of Meeting held 08 September 2021, virtually on MS Teams

Present: Ross MacKillop (Chair), Niall MacLennan SFRS, Roddy Bailey SDS, Lindsay Tulloch Police Scotland, Mark Holloway SPS, Samantha Morrison DWP

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

1. Apologies:

James Maybee Highland Council, Beverley Horton NHSH, Carlie Borthwick Third Sector, Lewis Hannah THC Housing, David Goldie THC Housing, Alan Prosser VSS, Ruth Thomson SCTS, Sally Amor NHSH, Brian McKirdy SPS, Sheriff Sara Matheson

2. Declaration of interest:

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

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

AGREED as correct.

Ross mentioned that the Wash Up session which had been planned has been postponed until late October/early November.

Action 1/20 - Margaret to follow up with the Chamber of Commerce around advertising the Disclosure Scotland event.

Mark mentioned that they had held an employability event at the prison previously and they would be looking to do something again when things start to open up.

Action – Ross to speak to James about consideration of good news around unpaid work being posted on twitter and/or facebook

Action – Ross to speak to Alistair Christie in relation to Action 3/21 (reporting process to CPP)

4. Community Justice Update Template:

Ross invited comments from those present in relation to the template which had been used for the first time. The consensus was that the template is useful and straightforward to use. Mhairi mentioned that the template could be shortened and that it is a tool to scrutinise performance against what the partnership have said they would do.

Ross emphasised that any updates should be sent to Margaret

5. Community Justice Update:

Margaret spoke to the paper that had been circulated. She asked if it would be useful for information from the CJ Forum to be circulated to the partnership as there is often useful information provided through agency updates.

Action – Margaret to circulate a brief outline of relevant information to the CJP

Mhairi mentioned that there has been some thought given recently to a pipeline to map services across the justice agenda right from early years to involvement in the justice system. Some work has been done around this already.

Action – Mhairi to organise a meeting for James/Police/Margaret to discuss.

6. Annual Report:

Margaret updated that the report was almost ready for submission to CJS on 24 September unless there were any issues or other additions.

Discussion arose in relation to the report being presented at the CPP and there being potentially a lack of awareness at CPP level around the CJP.

Action – Ross to raise at the next CPP Board

Mhairi mentioned that this is not unique to Highland and that other partnerships have the same issues. There is a gap in the thematic areas around poverty etc and that justice flows through the whole landscape.

Margaret mentioned that any late additions to the report were welcome.

AGREED the Annual Report could be submitted to the CPP and CJS

7. CJP Membership:

Discussion took place around the need to review the membership of the CJP. Mhairi updated the meeting that presently there is third sector representation from VSS and 2 members of the wider third sector who have been elected by the sector.

The third sector has a particular role in community justice, and they are moving the CJ Plan forward reasonably well. In looking at possible attendees who could contribute: Apex are involved with community payback and unpaid work; Families Outside involved with children and families; VSS, Women's Aid and RASASH are all involved with victims. Geographically, Pultneytown People's Project and Lochaber Hope could also be of benefit. These organisations could be asked to attend in their own right, as they could all contribute well in terms of what the partnership is looking to do.

Mhairi asked for views in relation to what had been proposed, possibly between 3 and 6 members of the third sector being invited to take part in the meetings going forward.

Niall mentioned it was important to deliver outcomes and objectives of the CJP and improve the network.

Ross mentioned the partnership should engage with those who have offended, their families and those who have been victims of crime.

AGREED to moving this proposal forward

Action – Mhairi to contact the organisations mentioned in relation to the proposal

Roddy mentioned that there is an employability team at Highland Council. It was noted that Mhairi and Margaret are trying to make contact with them in relation to the work of the CJP and how this may cross over.

It was noted that there has been no attendance of NHS at the CJP again.

8. TOR:

Agreement that the TOR paper which had been circulated requires updating. This will be done once the third sector representation has been finalised.

Action – Mhairi will update TOR in due course and ensure attendance of SCRA and DWP are included

Ross mentioned that it may be worth engaging with defence solicitors or SLAB to raise awareness of community justice.

9. Employment & Criminal Convictions Policy:

Niall spoke to the document that had been circulated in respect of how it might be used by other agencies to develop a policy around this. Taking a positive approach SFRS are looking at how to create opportunities, not barriers to employment of people. They are particularly looking at regulating tasks through risk assessment and making use of the PVG system as a standardised approach. Niall expressed the document is there for use by others and he is happy to be a point of contact if there are any questions.

Ross acknowledged that the document is a good starting point if there are agencies who need to refresh their policy around this.

Lindsay mentioned most of the issues for the police are around those not declaring their convictions from the outset which then removes them from the process.

Niall mentioned that he hopes this will encourage people that they are not excluded from applying due to a conviction.

Ross thanked Niall for sharing this useful document.

10. Rapid Response Custody Link Project:

Alan spoke to the paper that had been circulated and mentioned that there had been discussion through the Custody Link Steering Group that for some people the opportunity and motivation to make a change had been lost due to the delays in getting into services.

Alan asked whether the CJP agrees in principle to a rapid referral into services where there is immediate risk to a person in a serious situation that could make a difference.

Lindsay mentioned that he agreed with this approach, but it could be difficult to coordinate.

Mhairi mentioned that the main agencies who may be involved in this approach were not present at the meeting – Mental Health, Addictions and Housing.

Niall asked if there was already a policy that allows fast-track in place.

Alan reiterated that the policy would be for those who are highly vulnerable.

Ross acknowledged that this system would be for a low number of people who are genuinely in need and not for abuse of the system.

Mark mentioned that more people are in crisis, and they are being remanded to prison as there are no beds available in mental health services.

Ross updated that the Rapid Response approach was AGREED from a CJP perspective.

Action – Ross to highlight to the most appropriate group about the lack of agencies in attendance at the CJP

Lindsay updated the meeting that he chairs the Suicide Prevention Steering Group which deals with mental health triage and there is work ongoing in the Concern Hub around vulnerability

Action – Lindsay will raise the Rapid Response approach at the Suicide Prevention Steering Group

#### 11. National Care Service Consultation:

Ross mentioned that the Care Service Consultation is now open and that it may be appropriate for the CJP to respond to this collectively.

The justice section starts on page 71 and any comments around this should be sent to Margaret by the end of October.

Action – All to consider response to the Justice Section of the Care Service Consultation by the end of October

Action – Margaret to email CJP as a reminder

It was discussed whether the justice response could be incorporated into the CPP response, but it was agreed that this has still to be decided.

#### 12. Caithness Project:

Sally was unable to attend the meeting today and will provide an update in relation to the project at the CJP Meeting in December.

#### 13. Finance:

James was unable to attend the meeting today.

Mhairi mentioned that money is being carried for Small Change for Justice to the end of the financial year. There is also an underspend with the money for Margaret's post. There is also an additional £12.5K which must be spent by

the end of the current year, perhaps a separate meeting for proposals on how to spend this should be arranged? In addition, there is also a small underspend from the overall £50K.

Action – Mhairi to arrange a meeting in relation to how the money may be spent

14. Good News:

Mhairi mentioned that money has become available to James in CJSW and that we are looking at hosting a 'Dragon's Den' type of event which will have a similar concept to Small Change for Justice although the sums of money will be much greater.

CJSW will outline a clear need which requires to be addressed and bids from third sector agencies who feel they can meet that need will be invited. They will then be invited to pitch to a panel, hopefully before the end of the year.

The money will also fund the Café Link Worker post until 2023 and there will be an additional Custody Link Worker employed for 12 months.

15. AOCB:

Lindsay mentioned that he had heard the number of referrals to VSS had gone down and it is important that we understand why, if that is correct.

Ross mentioned that it's important that the victim's voice is heard.

Samantha mentioned that she will look to get a handover with Ann Dowd in relation to representation of DWP at the CJP.

16. Date of next CJP Meetings:

8 December 2021

No	Action	Who	Due Date	Update
1/20	Training for employers	Margaret		Sep '21, Flyer made up and circulated through social media and Chamber of Commerce. Flyer to be circulated again. Paul McCann made aware - ongoing
3/20	Delivery of employment training programme	Roddy & Samantha		Sep '21, Roddy to review and discuss with Samantha at DWP - ongoing
4/20	Discussion around procurement framework	All		Sep '21, Carried forward to – Washup Session Oct/Nov 21
5/20	Executive summary of findings following Small Change for Justice	All		Sep '21, Carried forward to – Washup Session Oct/Nov 21
6/20	Discussion re. Bail Supervision following national event	Niall & James		Sep '21, Event on hold due to Covid-19
7/20	Second Chancers Exhibition II, contact Eden Court	Margaret		Sep '21, On hold due to Covid-19
	Venues to be considered	James, Roddy, Libby, Sally		Sep '21, On hold due to Covid-19
8/20	Update to CPP re. VRU project in Caithness & Sutherland	Niall		Sep '21, Sally provided brief update, work is still ongoing. Agenda item & update to be provided at the December CJP
9/20	Follow up with employers who attended Courage of our Convictions event	Margaret		Sep '21, Linked to Action 1, will be followed up, ongoing
18/20	Look at different format for CJ Newsletter	Margaret		Sep '21, ongoing
19/20	Review communication of CJP information	All		Sep '21, ongoing – Comms Strategy for new CJ Plan
7/21	Highlight issues around access to MH Services for those in the justice system to HPPCOG	Ross		Sep '21 Ross to contact Conrad re this

<b>8/21</b>	Information around Bail Supervision to be sent to Sheriff Matheson	James		Sep '21 This has possibly been done
<b>9/21</b>	Discussion involving Niall & Ross around employment of those with an offending history. Margaret to arrange	Margaret		Sep '21 Complete
<b>10/21</b>	Template for updates to CJP Meetings to be circulated	Margaret		Sep '21 Complete
<b>11/21</b>	Discussion regarding 'Dragon's Den' event	James, Mhairi, Margaret		Sep '21 Complete
<b>12/21</b>	Consideration of good news around unpaid work being posted on twitter and/or facebook	Ross & James		
<b>13/21</b>	Discussion with Alistair Christie in relation to reporting process to CPP	Ross		
<b>14/21</b>	Circulate a brief outline of relevant information form the CJ Third Sector Forum to the CJP	Margaret		
<b>15/21</b>	Organise a meeting for James/Police/Margaret to discuss the justice pipeline.	Mhairi		
<b>16/21</b>	Raise lack of awareness of the CJP at the next CPP Board	Ross		
<b>17/21</b>	Contact the third sector organisations agreed in relation to the proposal for representation at the CJP	Mhairi		
<b>18/21</b>	Update TOR in due course and ensure attendance of SCRA and DWP are included	Mhairi		
<b>19/21</b>	Highlight to the most appropriate group about the lack of agencies in attendance at the CJP	Ross		
<b>20/21</b>	Raise the Rapid Response approach at the Suicide Prevention Steering Group	Lindsay		
<b>21/21</b>	Consider response to the Justice Section of the National Care Service Consultation by the end of October	All		
<b>22/21</b>	Send email to CJP in relation to the National Care Service Consultation as a reminder	Margaret		
<b>23/21</b>	Arrange a meeting in relation to how the additional £12.5K may be spent	Mhairi		