



## **Highland Community Justice Partnership**

Minutes of Meeting held 09 March 2022, virtually on MS Teams

Present: Ross MacKillop (Chair), Niall MacLennan SFRS, Lindsay Tulloch Police Scotland, Brian McKirdy SPS, Maria Cano Montaner THC CJSW, Alan Prosser VSS, Caroline Cooper Families Outside, Gail Ward THC Housing, Chris Holloway Apex Highland Tina Brown Apex Highland, Heather Watson DWP, Melanie Newdick HADP, Lynn Mackay NHS

In Attendance: Margaret McShane HTSI, Mhairi Wylie HTSI, Alan Grant HTSI, Rachael Moss CJS, Yvette O'Donnell CYCJ

1. Apologies:  
Roddy Bailey SDS, Beverley Horton NHS, Sheriff Sara Matheson, Ann Dowd DWP, Dawn Kotschujew RASASH
2. Declaration of interest:  
None
3. Restorative Justice input by Community Justice Scotland & Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ)  
Rachael and Yvette provided an input in relation to Restorative Justice which is due to be implemented in Scotland by the end of 2023. Rachael works in relation to adults and Yvette in relation to children and young people.

The animation that CJS has produced was shown to the meeting.

The roll out of RJ is likely to follow the Sherifffdom model with Regional Hubs responsible for the delivery of the service. There will be an RJ Forum website set up in the Spring/Summer of 2022.

SACRO are carrying out a skills training review.

Thriving Survivors are working on a Scotland wide consultation.

Areas being worked on are a Code of Practice, the soft roll out (testing site prep), Edinburgh and Lothian & Borders are one Sheriffdom looking at restorative justice for hate crime, VAWG Roundtable are also involved in producing the Action Plan.

The next steps include – Roll out, testing & evaluation, awareness raising, training needs analysis, children's rights impact assessment.

There will be a publication of the CYCJ research soon and there will be research into risk mitigation in the summer.

Challenges include stakeholder engagement, funding, resources, timescales, information sharing, Covid backlogs, face to face research and the awareness and understanding of RJ.

Funding may be localised to the needs of local authorities and victims can request RJ.

Contacts: [yvette.odonnell@strath.ac.uk](mailto:yvette.odonnell@strath.ac.uk)  
[Rachael.Moss@communityjustice.scot](mailto:Rachael.Moss@communityjustice.scot)

Rachael and Yvette left the meeting.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

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

AGREED as correct.

Action – Margaret to contact Sally to obtain an update on her outstanding Actions

5. Community Justice Update Template:

Again, Ross mentioned that the template has not been utilised in the way it was intended, with very little by way of updates in relation to the Actions contained in it. Should we incorporate wider updates from agencies?

Action – Revise the previous Action around this

6. Community Justice Update:

Margaret spoke to the paper that had been circulated. She mentioned in particular the update around the CJ Strategy and OPIF and the implications for the CJ Plan going forward. A position statement will be uploaded on to the CJ page of the CPP website.

Margaret also mentioned the upcoming Small Change for Justice and Dragon's Den events.

Mention was also made of the online webinar around the new guidelines around the sentencing of young people and the Justice Disrupted podcast featuring Chris Daw QC, both were worthy of viewing/listening to and are available now.

7. Custody Link Worker Project Update:

Alan spoke to the paper that had been circulated and highlighted that there are more people accepting a referral than declining and that there are a number of issues being presented per person, very rarely is it just one issue with which they are dealing. The Link Workers are coordinating that assistance and support being provided.

Lindsay asked about the evaluation of the project and Alan advised that there should be an update from Stirling University by the end of March. Mhairi advised that if no report was forthcoming around this within the next 6 weeks, then an external evaluation would be sought as Stirling University may not have the capacity to do this.

Mhairi also highlighted that this is the final year of the project and that we are 6 months away from ceasing to take referrals. If funding is not secured within the next 6 months, then the project will be closed down. Individuals need to look at investing if this is to continue.

Ross mentioned that perhaps organisations need to look at funding opportunities. Mhairi clarified that the Big Lottery will not fund this again as although they were interested in the learning from this project, they saw what the project was providing as a statutory function.

There is learning, case studies and data which can be used but the key is looking at the value of the project overall.

8. Vice Chair:

A short discussion took place in relation to the vice chair position but agreed that this would be progressed by the Chair off table.

9. Good News:

The Small Change for Justice and Dragon's Den events should prove to be good news stories

10. AOCB:

Lindsay mentioned Café 1668 and the lack of funding for this beneficial resource. Mhairi updated that HTSI are in the process of applying for funding and that Robertson Trust and CJSW have provided some funding already. She mentioned that she is optimistic that the café can be sustained into the next financial year. If trading were to increase, then HTSI would look to float the café away as its own entity whilst maintaining the same ethos.

Ross mentioned that he had become aware of an issue with female custodies who are either sentenced or on remand and have been moved out of the Highland area. On their return they are being recorded by services as coming back to Highland from outside the area and there appears to be some difficulty in them getting back into services.

Tina from Apex mentioned that Shine (part of Apex) are working with females returning to the Highland area from custody and New Routes (part of Apex) are working with males returning to the Highland area from custody. Staff work with both these groups when they come out of prison.

Margaret mentioned that Caroline had raised an issue at the last CJ Forum in relation to those on remand, which is often extended under the current climate and who don't get access to housing support and benefits support on release. This would appear to be a national issue.

Gail offered to speak to Caroline off table to discuss in relation to housing.

Action – Margaret to follow up how this progressing

11. Date of next CJP Meetings:

**Tue 21 June 1400 - 1600hrs**

**Thu 8 September 1400 - 1600hrs**

**Thu 6 December 1400 – 1600hrs**



## Action Table

No	Action	Who	Due Date	Update
3/20	Delivery of employment training programme	Roddy & Ann		Mar '22, Roddy has contacted Ann at DWP and will follow up - ongoing
4/20	Discussion around procurement framework	All		Mar '22, Not discussed at Wash Up Session - keep for discussion at later date.
5/20	Executive summary of findings following Small Change for Justice	All		Mar '22, Not discussed at Wash Up - keep for consideration after Small Change II
8/20	Update to CPP re. VRU project in Caithness & Sutherland	Ross		Mar '22, Sally unable to provide update at this meeting. Information still to be provided to CPP
19/20	Review communication of CJP information	All		Mar '22, ongoing – Comms Strategy for new CJ Plan
12/21	Consideration of good news around unpaid work being posted on twitter and/or facebook	Ross & Maria		Mar '22, Ongoing
17/21	Contact the third sector organisations agreed in relation to the proposal for representation at the CJP	Mhairi		Mar '22, <b>Complete</b>
18/21	Update TOR in due course and ensure attendance of SCRA and DWP are included	Mhairi		Mar '22, Ongoing
20/21	Raise the Rapid Response approach at the Suicide Prevention Steering Group	Lindsay		Mar '22, Ongoing
24/21	Everyone to look at the update template and provide any update around their Actions to Margaret	All		Mar '22 Ongoing
25/21	Margaret to circulate information from the CJS Consultation Event on Bail and Release from Custody.	Margaret		Mar '22 <b>Complete</b>

<b>26/21</b>	Ross to speak to Alan & Peter to look at how key points and learning from the Custody Link Project can be shared	Ross		Mar '22 Ongoing
<b>27/21</b>	Alan to produce information for the CPP on learning from Custody Link Project	Alan		Mar '22 Ongoing
<b>28/21</b>	Lindsay to report back to the CJP on Pathfinder Project	Lindsay		Mar '22 Ongoing
<b>1/22</b>	Margaret to contact Sally re update on outstanding Actions	Margaret		
<b>2/22</b>	Ross/Margaret to revise previous Action around Update Template	Ross & Margaret		
<b>3/22</b>	Margaret to follow up with Caroline & Gail re issue around those leaving custody gaining access to housing	Margaret		