



## **Highland Community Justice Partnership**

Minutes of Meeting held 6 December 2022, HTSI Office, Thorfin House, Bridgend Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9SL

Present: Niall MacLennan SFRS (Acting Chair on behalf of Ross MacKillop), Maria Cano Montaner THC CJSW, Carol Spratt NHS, Julie Mirvis DWP, Peter Hindley Police Scotland Custody Division

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

1. Apologies:

Ross MacKillop (Chair), Brian McKirdy SPS, Sheriff Sara Matheson, Ruth Thomson SCTS, Ann Dowd DWP, Lynn Mackay NHS, Fiona Farquharson SCRA, Roddy Bailey SDS, Bev Horton NHS, Jenny Valentine Police Scotland, Debbie Stewart HADP, Caroline Cooper Families Outside, Tina Brown Apex, Chris Holloway Apex, Megan Mackenzie Apex, Caitlin McColl Apex

2. Declaration of interest:

None

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

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

AGREED as correct.

Action – Margaret to follow up with Roddy & Ann in relation to Action 3/20

Action – Margaret to contact Jenny Valentine for an update around Actions 20/21 and 28/21

Action – Margaret to re-send the information in relation to Harper House

Action – Margaret to follow up with Andrew Garraway re Action 14/22

4. Community Justice Update:

Margaret spoke to the paper that had been circulated and drew the groups attention to a few of the items, that the CPO Development Officer vacancy had now been filled and that this will enable third sector organisations to gain a better understanding of their potential involvement of working with people carrying out community payback hours.

A development day for the Highland Community Justice Plan 2023-26 was held in November, however there was limited attendance from the partnership at this meeting which was disappointing. There will be discussion around the plan later in today's meeting.

Work is still ongoing with the Community Justice Conference which will be held on 17 March 2023. The theme will be how poverty affects those in the justice system.

Margaret also mentioned the links to all the information provided by Community Justice Scotland in the update paper which are worthwhile having a look at.

Carol mentioned that she has heard good feedback around Operation Respect and the work carried out during this from the Mental Health Nurses.

Mhairi mentioned that Social Security Scotland have been using Café 1668 recently to facilitate meetings. Of note is the roll out of the Children's Payment. The Executive Team from Social Security Scotland visited HTSI which is encouraging in terms of community partnership.

Mhairi also mentioned that the TSI Network had given evidence at a recent meeting discussing the National Care Service Bill and that community justice had been mentioned in this. She suggested that the CJP need to be involved with any future consultation in relation to the community justice element and that the CPP will also need to be involved.

It would appear that the third sector are cautiously optimistic in relation to the Bill as it appears to be more transparent, however Mhairi raised concerns about one social record and the implications of that.

Niall suggested that there is perhaps a bit of learning which could clarify what the suggested implications around this are.

Mhairi reiterated the need for a partnership response to this and not just the views of singular organisations.

Action – Margaret to circulate the response to the initial consultation by CJS

Mhairi also mentioned the funding that Apex and other organisations in Highland received from the EU in relation to employability. This has now ceased, and it is not clear whether the UK Prosperity Funding will be used for this purpose. This could mean that people within the justice system and those coming into it will be affected as there will be gaps in service if no funding is directed to this. It would appear that this issue is not being discussed at a strategic level.

Finally, Mhairi mentioned funding from the HADP, the 50k grants have now been settled and there will be 6 events over 3 weeks until the end of March in relation to further funding grants available which will range from 4k to 10k.

5. Custody Link Worker Project Update:

Alan provided an update and spoke to the paper that had been circulated. He mentioned that through Peter he has had contact with Geo Amey (who provide custody transfers). This has enabled the Custody Link Workers the opportunity to speak with custodies before they go to court at the Justice Centre in Inverness.

Of note, there have been 160 requests for support around mental health. The Link Workers primarily refer and signpost people to services as it is often not clear to people how to access services.

Carol asked whether the people they are seeing have issues with mental health distress or mental health illness.

Alan stated that much of the distress is added to by the distress of being brought into custody from situations where they are just unable to cope. There have been many referrals to Distress Brief Intervention (DBI). Alan mentioned that out of a sample of 300 referrals, all but 1 haven't had the mental resilience to deal with the situation.

Carol informed the meeting that every GP Practice has had 2 Mental Health Nurses assigned to them and it would be useful to make the link between the Primary Care Nurses and the Custody Link Workers.

Depending on what the person's need are, there is a 6-week (max) course, and this will hopefully free up the ability to deal with secondary mental health care. There is no waiting list for the Primary Mental Health Nurse, and this is available across almost all of Highland. The conversation can take place face to face or by telephone whichever is the person's choice.

People 16yrs can be referred if they are in school otherwise 18yrs if they have left school. The person must not be under the influence of any substance to enable them to take part in the call.

Alan spoke to the case study in his paper and pointed out that the person involved had a number of interactions with services over the years who had never been able to fully help him. The Custody Link Worker had spent between 30 – 40 hours with him (all by telephone) and had been able to coordinate services to get referrals for him which resulted in a successful outcome.

Niall mentioned this had been very positive in relation to the outcome. A discussion thereafter took place around alcohol consumption, including the causes and the culture around this in society.

Alan mentioned that employment can help with providing structure and perhaps lessen the opportunity available to consume alcohol.

Mhairi mentioned that there is no funding at the moment to continue the Custody Link Worker Project. There is an application with Investing In Communities for funding although it will not be known until January whether this has been successful. There is likely to be some discussion around this going forward.

As it stands the project will cease taking referrals in April 2023 in order that there is a phased exit for the clients they are working with.

It is estimated that the running costs are just short of £150k for 1 year which covers mainly staffing costs etc.

Niall queried whether there would be a cost benefit analysis and Mhairi mentioned that the external evaluation by Stirling University will assist with this along with a data evaluation which Alan will compile.

It was clarified that the original funding came from The Big Lottery, The Robertson Trust, Police Scotland and Highland Community Justice Partnership.

Peter mentioned that within all of this, we should also consider the resultant costs to victims.

Maria mentioned the overlap in interest between the CJP and the HADP.

Maria also mentioned Bail Supervision and that it would be useful to have a discussion as to how this might work involving the work of the Custody Link Project. Further discussions to continue.

6. Annual Report:

Margaret spoke to the report that had been circulated and asked if the group agreed that it be published.

AGREED

Action – Margaret to circulate to Community Justice Scotland, the CPP and publish on CJ page of the CPP website

7. CJ Plan 2023:

Margaret spoke to the paper that had been circulated outlining the draft CJ Plan for 2023 onwards.

The group were asked to consider the draft and provide any feedback or additions to it by the end of January.

Action – Margaret to circulate again to the CJP for ALL to consider any feedback/additions, to be sent by end of January 2023.

Maria mentioned the Children's Care and Justice Bill which is going through Parliament and provides that 16 – 18-year-olds will not appear in court. CJSW are working with the Youth Action Team around this.

A discussion took place about how this might affect the Community Justice Act.

Action – Margaret will look into this and feed back to the group

8. Finance Update:

Mhairi updated that £50k per annum covered Margaret's post and the contribution to the Independent Chair post.

In addition, there has been £12.5k over the past few years. It is not known whether this will continue to occur.

There is a bit of an underspend which needs to be spent in the current year and it would be useful for the partnership to have a conversation about how this should be spent.

Action – Margaret to arrange a face-to-face meeting in January to facilitate this discussion

There is already money set aside for the CJ Conference and the second payments to Small Change for Justice and Community Justice Dragon's Den projects.

Mhairi pointed out that if there is no further £12.5k uplift then the monies will take longer to accrue for any subsequent Small Change for Justice event.

9. Good News:

It was felt by the group that the update Carol had provided in relation to the Mental Health Nurses being assigned to the GP Practices was indeed good news.

Julie mentioned that Social Security Scotland are now helping people in prison apply for payments including Adult Disability Payments (ADP) and providing assistance with forms etc.

10. AOCB:

Margaret mentioned that Ross is keen to have partner updates provided within the CJP Meetings so that we can keep up to date with relevant initiatives within agencies.

AGREED this will be a Standing Item

Action – Margaret to add to future Agendas

11. Date of next CJP Meetings

**Wed 8 March 1400 – 1600hrs**

**Wed 14 June 1400 – 1600**

**Wed 6 September 1400 – 1600**

**Wed 6 September 1400 – 1600**



## Action Table

No	Action	Who	Due Date	Update
3/20	Delivery of employment training programme	Roddy & Ann		Dec '22, Roddy has contacted Ann at DWP and will follow up - ongoing
5/20	Executive summary of findings following Small Change for Justice	All		Dec '22, Not discussed at Wash Up - keep for consideration after Small Change II
19/20	Review communication of CJP information	All		Dec '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		Dec '22, Ongoing
20/21	Raise the Rapid Response approach at the Suicide Prevention Steering Group	Lindsay		Dec '22, Ongoing – Daniel to follow up
27/21	Alan to produce information for the CPP on learning from Custody Link Project. Ross to present information to CPP	Alan		<b>Complete</b>
28/21	Lindsay to report back to the CJP on Pathfinder Project	Lindsay		Dec '22 Ongoing, Daniel to follow up
5/22	Reply to Thriving Survivors in relation to these concerns	Ross		
10/22	Contact Apex re. work that potentially those on CPOs could carry out	Ross		Ongoing
11/22	Update required for Actions 20/21 & 28/21	Margaret		<b>Complete</b> – see Action 20/22
12/22	Circulate details of Harper House	Margaret		<b>Complete</b> – see Action 21/22
13/22	Contact CJP re Annual Report	Margaret		<b>Complete</b>
14/22	Share information re. Integration	Andrew		Dec '22 – see Action 22/22
15/22	Agreement for outline of CJ Plan by 30 Sep	All		<b>Complete</b>
16/22	Report from Moray to be circulated	Caroline		<b>Complete</b>
17/22	Chase CPP re. implementation of Harm Reduction Hub in Caithness	Ross		
18/22	Arrange photograph of CJP	Margaret		Ongoing

<b>19/22</b>	Update from Roddy & Ann re Action 3/20	Margaret		
<b>20/22</b>	Contact Jenny Valentine re Actions 20/21 and 28/21	Margaret		
<b>21/22</b>	Re-circulate Harper House Information	Margaret		
<b>22/22</b>	Contact Andrew re. Action 14/22	Margaret		
<b>23/22</b>	Circulate CJS response to National Care Service Consultation	Margaret		
<b>24/22</b>	Circulate CJ Annual Report to CJS, CPP and publish on CPP website	Margaret		
<b>25/22</b>	Circulate draft CJ Plan 2023 for feedback/additions	Margaret		
<b>26/22</b>	Consider Children's Care & Justice Bill and potential implications for the Community Justice Act	Margaret		
<b>27/22</b>	Arrange CJP face to face meeting in January 2023 to discuss finances	Margaret		
<b>28/22</b>	Add Partner Updates to the CJP Meeting Agenda as standing item	Margaret		