



Highland Community Justice Partnership

Minutes of Meeting held 1400 – 1600, 15 June 2023, Police Scotland N Division HQ, Old Perth Rd, Inverness, IV2 3SY

Present: Ross MacKillop (Chair), Ritchie Macrae Police Scotland Custody Division, Brian McKirdy SPS, Fiona Farquhar SCRA, Roddy Bailey SDS, Caroline Cooper Families Outside, Frances Mathewson HADP, Jenny Valentine Police Scotland, Carol Spratt NHS, Julie Mirvis DWP, Andrew MacDonald CJSW, Kate MacLean Councillor THC

In Attendance: Margaret McShane HTSI, Alan Grant HTSI, Lindsay Snodgrass UHI, Louise Martin-Theyers UHI

Apologies:

1. Sheriff Sara Matheson (Standing Apologies), Mhairi Wylie HTSI, Ruth Thomson SCTS, Iver Forsyth THC Housing, Ann Dowd DWP, Maria Cano Montaner THC CJSW
2. Input by West Lothian College on Microsoft Teams by Margaret Forisky and Sarah-Jane Linton in relation to the Trust Project

[The Trust Project | West Lothian College \(west-lothian.ac.uk\)](https://www.west-lothian.ac.uk)

Sarah-Jane is the Lead for the curriculum. At the college they saw partnership opportunities to lift people out of poverty. In 2018 they started a trauma responsive Level 4 course (pre-GCSE/Standard Grade). In 2019 they had insight into people's challenges through the ACEs training and adopted an empathetic student focus. In 2021 they introduced a free breakfast to students believing this would assist with their mental health and wellbeing. In 2022/23 the Trust Project began looking at 1 person and their needs which enabled lots of partners to work well. There is a link between trauma, poverty and mental health and we needed to look at pathways from poverty.

Margaret Forisky then asked the question for the group – thinking back – who was it safe to be around at 15 years old? She went on to relay a case study of a 15-year-old boy who had become involved in drug related offences. The college started working with him and provided support to enable him to enrol in 2 courses. He spent time twice in Polmont during the period they were

working with him. He finished his course last Friday and has not been in court for 6 weeks. The college will continue to work with him.

There is a clear referral service taking people from all walks of life with access through schools. There are currently 14 agencies based in the college and the key is building relationships and trust.

There is a Peer Navigator role, this is a worker who has been involved in the justice system and understands the issues. Contact is made with parents/carers to find out what is working or not working.

In addition, there is family learning, budgeting and a laundry service. The structure of the college has been tweaked to be inclusive and understanding. The project has had an external evaluation and there is a need to meet quarterly with partners, carry out more pro-active work and more family work.

In relation to funding, it works on a credit system and 1 credit = 40 hours of learning. The income from extra students pays for the Trust Project.

Lindsay Snodgrass from UHI mentioned that they are doing a lot already although not with the group that are currently being discussed today. They are finding it increasingly difficult to get funding and will speak to West Lothian about funding. It was mentioned that if support is there Mon – Fri then what happens at weekends? Also, what does success look like for the younger people coming through? Mention was made of a roll on/roll off approach which this type of learning approach often is. It is SQV type of learning which is annualised rather than done through term time.

Partners in West Lothian include – Youth Justice, Lawyers, CYCJ research, Action for Children, Children First, DWP, Women's Aid, Suicide Group, SDS and Community Safety.

Lindsay mentioned that they currently work with care experienced people through their LEEP Project which recognises trauma. They are also working with Youth Action Team so there wouldn't be much challenge translating to justice.

Ross mentioned referral routes and that perhaps the CJP can assist with this.

Louise mentioned that they are working with pupils from S1 onwards and confirmed their definition of a young person is anyone from 16 – 21yrs.

Lindsay confirmed that there is also involvement of Decider Skills for people and agreed that there could be support available for people during holiday times as the building is open for support.

Louise mentioned that anyone can make a referral as they work with throughcare and aftercare, also with refugee groups and they are keen to expand their partnerships.

Ross updated the meeting that all the information would be taken off table to discuss.

Action - Partnership to discuss input by West Lothian College & UHI in relation to involvement of CJP in provision of pathways for those in the justice system
- All

3. Declaration of interest:

None

4. Minutes of previous meeting:

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

AGREED as correct

Carol mentioned that custody nurses have now done Storm Training which means they can refer into a pathway for mental health. This includes formal and informal procedures and work is ongoing around this.

5. Community Justice Update:

Margaret spoke to the items in the paper that had been circulated and highlighted that the national documents for community justice have now been published with the exception of the National Strategy Delivery Plan.

She also mentioned that she has had confirmation that the Post Custodial Partnership Plan would be included as part of the CJOIP and that the Community Integration Plan (CIP) in Highland would be seen as an example of this work.

Brian mentioned that the CIP is being evaluated by Napier University and they are looking to progress discussions around the Recovery Worker Training Project with the Scottish Drugs Forum.

Margaret mentioned the conference which the CJP had held in March and that she had compiled a document with the feedback which she could share with the group if thought helpful.

Action – Margaret to share the evaluation document with the partnership

Margaret also mentioned the Community Justice Partner Excellence Award 2023 and requested partners look at making nominations for the award.

6. Custody Link Worker Project Update:

Alan provided an update in relation to the internal draft Evaluation Report that had been circulated.

He mentioned that the concept had originated through the CJP and asked if the partners felt if there was anything else that it should include.

He mentioned the Evaluation Event at Eden Court on 27 June, that Stirling University are proving the external evaluation for the project and will be there to present their findings.

Ritchie mentioned that the Custody have really bought into this service, providing referrals.

Ross mentioned the funding and Alan updated that they have funding until potentially the end of March 2024, so they don't have to wind the project up just yet.

7. CJ Annual Report 2022/23:

Margaret spoke to the template report that had been circulated and mentioned to the group that the template this year was requesting far more narrative input that in previous years and not so much around data collection. The views of the partnership are important in respect of the information being requested. Margaret mentioned that this has to be a collective effort and although there is specific information in relation to data from CJSW, SPS, NHS, the narrative sections need to be looked at by all partners and information fed back in relation to this for completion of the template.

Margaret mentioned that the template has to be submitted to Community Justice Scotland by 29 September and conscious that the summer holidays are approaching so the sooner people can feed their thoughts back, the better.

Action - Partners to feedback information for CJ Annual Report to Margaret as soon as possible - All

8. CJ Plan 2023 Onwards:

Margaret spoke to the paper that had been circulated and mentioned that there had been slippage with compiling the plan as originally thought by July 2023. Through conversation at a local and national level it seemed more likely to change the length of the plan to 5 years with a view to publishing towards the end of 2023.

As it stands there needs to be further work done around confirming and fleshing out actions in relation to the priorities, areas of focus and identify leads in relation to these.

The partnership was then asked to agree in principle with the updated timeline for compilation of the new plan and to make suggestions as to how this work is carried forward.

AGREED in principle

Ross suggested we set aside a day for partners to come together to look at progressing this piece of work.

Action - Margaret to look at a date for partners to meet to progress the new CJ Plan

Jenny mentioned that she has had talks recently with VAW Group and there may be something from these discussions which could be included in the plan in relation to victims and first-time offenders.

Action – Jenny to discuss with VAW Group in relation to tangible Actions for new CJOIP around women & girls and first-time offenders

Kate mentioned the work that is taking place in Merkinch around prevention which Judy Hill is progressing.

Margaret mentioned that the CJPs are being steered to look at community justice from the point of arrest onwards.

Jenny mentioned that it might be worthwhile considering inviting Gail Prentice who is managing the 3 Community Partnership Officers to the CJP.

9. Terms of Reference:

Ross mentioned that we are due to review the TOR annually and the paper had been circulated for review/discussion. Ross mentioned that there is nothing about meetings being quorate within the document and given that

there have been meetings where attendance has been poor, is this something that we should consider?

In those circumstances the business of the meeting has gone ahead. Jenny mentioned that perhaps if there are any discussions around finances/funding in particular, that the meetings require to be quorate.

Margaret mentioned in the past we have got round this issue by circulating any significant decisions to the partnership for input prior to any final decision being made.

AGREED that the TOR would stand as it is

10. For Information – Attendance 2022/23:

Ross mentioned the attendance information that had been circulated to the group.

Margaret mentioned that there have been issues with attendance perhaps due to a variety of reasons, venues, workloads and staff changes where people might not understand community justice.

It was mentioned that perhaps an information session might help.

Andrew mentioned that there seems to be specific issues with COPFS and SCTS attendance and that could we try and link into the Court Liaison Meeting?

Action – Andrew to assess whether representation from the CJP would be welcome at the Court Liaison Meetings locally

Margaret mentioned it might be useful to get a local perspective from both these agencies in terms of backlogs etc.

Brian mentioned that the remand population in the prison is through the roof.

Carol mentioned that she will speak to Teresa Green who works within custody and drugs & alcohol to see if she can input to the partnership. She will also look at a representative from public health.

Roddy mentioned it would be beneficial to have a list of the partners for the group and their job title/role.

Action – Margaret to circulate a list of the partners and their job title/role to the group

11. Finance Update:

Margaret mentioned that the finances had been secured for another year from SG, this is £62.5k.

There are no definite figures at the moment around the money available but there is an accumulation of money from the past years. There is also an underspend from the Dragon's Den and some other money so there will need to be a discussion at some point in relation to how this will be utilised.

There is still the research piece of work (engagement with service users) to be undertaken.

12. Good News:

Brian mentioned that universities are keen to provide students to carry out research so might be worth considering for the piece of work we are looking to do.

Roddy mentioned that could we have a pot of money which could be accessed on request.

Frances mentioned that they had carried out some experiential research recently in HADP.

13. Partner Updates:

Caroline (Families Outside) mentioned that they are busy, they have a young person group starting in prison to help to design the new prison.

Brian (SPS) mentioned that today they have 130 inmates and 140 elsewhere which is double the size of prison. They have been successful in submitting a business case for a Psychotherapist who will work 7 days per week to assist with trauma. This will satisfy 2 of the MAT Standards.

Roddy (SDS) mentioned the skills delivery landscape and there are 15 recommendations for them, changes for which are at least a year away.

Ritchie (Police Scotland, Custody Div) They are trying to look at ways to reduce the demand on courts. There will be a refurbishment at Burnett Road police station to improve the facilities for children in custody. London Road in Glasgow is currently seen as the flagship around this.

Andrew (The Highland Council, Housing) mentioned he has been working with Agnes Sangster on group work for people using Decider Skills and SMART. They have also been working with statutory orders, voluntary support as there is a high number needing service. They are also looking at plans for people leaving prison.

Fiona (SCRA) mentioned that they have seen a spike in joint referrals recently. They are also working to address the prospect of 16–18-year-olds being referred to SCRA.

Frances (HADP) mentioned that the evaluation of the Housing First pilot demonstrated diversion, however the project is not being carried forward. Housing are still hoping to embed the best practice from the project. Frances also spoke about embedding the MAT Standards and that there is cross-over work within this with the work of the CJP.

Jenny (Police Scotland) informed the group that there will be a new Inspector (William Nimmo) joining her team in July so this would provide a degree of consistency of representation to the CJP.

Alan (Custody Link Project – HTSI) mentioned that they have had a good run of their clients being able to get into employment recently.

Julie (DWP) mentioned that they are holding an Employability Event within the prison in Inverness on 22 June. This is a joint event with SPS. She also mentioned that there is a new pilot scheme which will allow people to apply for Universal Credit prior to liberation from custody and that most people can apply.

Brian mentioned that 70% of liberations are unplanned.

Kate mentioned that Highland Children's Social Workers are working at 40% capacity. Mention was also made of the Libertie Project – now known as Red Chair which also assists people on release from custody.

14. AOCB:

Nothing of note

15. Date of next CJP Meetings:

Thu 7 September 1330 – 1530

Thu 7 December 1400 – 1600



Action Table

No	Action	Who	Due Date	Update
5/20	Executive summary of findings following Small Change for Justice	Margaret		Mar '23, - keep for consideration after Small Change II
19/20	Review communication of CJP information	All		Mar '23, 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 '23, Ongoing through CPO DO role
20/21	Raise the Rapid Response approach at the Suicide Prevention Steering Group	Jenny		The Rapid Response Pathway Pilot proposed in 2021, was not directly referred to the Suicide Prevention Steering Group at the time, likely as a result in a change of chair on retirement. Having reviewed the paper now, the proposal aligns closely with an identified gap in service provision, which is being mapped by the Mental Health Delivery Group and the Suicide Prevention Steering Group. This piece of work has pulled together a number of such proposals, and this rapid response approach, will be considered as part of the wider service provision review. Complete
28/21	Lindsay to report back to the CJP on Pathfinder Project	Jenny		The Pathfinder Programme was undoubtedly a concept which had potential to benefit our communities but, unfortunately, a number of contributory

				factors provide that in its current format and with a very short timescale, the potential to deliver meaningful outcomes and impact was very limited. The pilot ended in June 2022. A significant contributory factor was information sharing protocols. A disappointing outcome however, the learning and challenges will undoubtedly help to shape the future of similar projects. Complete
10/22	Contact Apex re. work that potentially those on CPOs could carry out	Ross		Ongoing
17/22	Chase CPP re. implementation of Harm Reduction Hub in Caithness	Ross		Jenny updated that the model in Shetland which looked at that mid group of people who are not children but not Adult Support and Protection was looked at. It would be early intervention for low level crime in Caithness/Lochaber/Inverness. Some mapping was done in Caithness and use of premises. It has lost a bit of traction of late but will progress with a meeting next week. Complete
18/22	Arrange photograph of CJP	Margaret		Ongoing
20/22	Contact Jenny Valentine re Actions 20/21 and 28/21	Margaret		Complete
24/22	Circulate CJ Annual Report to CJS, CPP and publish on CPP website	Margaret		Complete
1/23	Enquire if Police HQ available for CJP Meetings	Ritchie		Complete
2/23	Compile proposal for Engagement/Research work	Mhairi & Margaret		Ongoing
3/23	Partnership to discuss input by West Lothian College & UHI in relation to involvement of CJP in provision of pathways for those in the justice system	All		

4/23	Margaret to share the conference evaluation document with the partnership	Margaret		
5/23	Partners to feedback information for CJ Annual Report as soon as possible	All		
6/23	Margaret to look at a date for partners to meet to progress the new CJ Plan	Margaret		
7/23	Discuss with VAW Group in relation to tangible Actions for new CJOIP around women & girls and first-time offenders	Jenny		
8/23	Assess whether representation from the CJP would be welcome at the Court Liaison Meetings locally	Andrew MacDonald		
9/23	List of attendees and their job title to be circulated amongst the group	Margaret		