



Highland Community Justice Partnership

Minutes of Meeting held 1330 – 1530, Thursday 7 September 2023, Police Scotland N Division HQ, Old Perth Rd, Inverness, IV2 3SY

Present: Ross MacKillop (Chair), Mark Holloway SPS, Fiona Farquhar SCRA, Roddy Bailey SDS, Frances Mathewson HADP, Julie Mirvis DWP, Andrew MacDonald CJSW, Kate MacLean Councillor THC, Derek Manson THC Housing, Miles Stubbs SFRS, James Monaghan SFRS

In Attendance: Mhairi Wylie HTSI, Margaret McShane HTSI, Alan Grant HTSI, Louise Martin-Theyers UHI

Apologies:

1. Sheriff Sara Matheson (Standing Apologies), Ritchie Macrae Police Scotland Custody Division, William Nimmo Police Scotland, Lynn Mackay NHSH, Ruth Thomson SCTS, Caroline Cooper Families Outside, Chris Holloway Apex Highland, Myra Ross VAW, Peter MacKenzie VAW
2. Input by VAW:
The input by the Violence Against Women Partnership has been postponed due to apologies by Myra Ross and Peter MacKenzie being submitted.
3. Declaration of interest:
None
4. Minutes of previous meeting:
Notes of the previous Community Justice Partnership Meeting in June were circulated for noting.

AGREED as correct

In relation to Action 3/23 Louise asked how UHI can meet the needs of the individuals they might work with through the justice pathway. Louise mentioned that UHI could look at structures and models for those who might benefit most whilst focussing on skills and learning that would matter to them. There are a lot of supports in place already including pastoral care, counsellors, and open sessions etc.

Ross asked the question of who this might be for and Louise mentioned could they look at alternatives to sentencing or is it for those already working with people e.g. Action for Children.

Mark mentioned that this is similar to work ongoing in the prison and mentioned it would be a good fit for those who need structure once in the community.

Louise mentioned about people having difficult experiences with learning and that some skills need to be taught discreetly – literacy/numeracy/problem solving.

It was also mentioned that just under 25yrs might be an issue and it would be beneficial to look at the age range for whom this might be available.

Andrew mentioned that there may be scope to involve those on CPOs (Community Payback Orders) as part of the 'other activity' element of this.

Ross mentioned perhaps a small working group could be established to look at pathways. Louise also mentioned a 'test pilot' around a focussed area.

Derek mentioned the work with Kim from the Highland Employability Partnership, Barnardos the CJ Team who have helped to get some young people to positive destinations.

5. Community Justice Update:

Margaret spoke to the items in the paper that had been circulated and highlighted that the guidance for national partners in relation to community justice is still being refreshed. The guidance issued in 2016 remains as a point of reference in the meantime.

A refresh of the guidance on self-evaluation for community justice has been published recently and this will be circulated to partners shortly.

The figures in the section around drugs and alcohol should read –

The alcohol figures in Highland have increased from 61 in 2021 to 66 in 2022 which Frances had mentioned to Margaret prior to the start of the meeting.

6. Custody Link Worker Project Update:

Alan provided an update in relation to the papers that had been circulated and mentioned that the final evaluation report from Stirling University had been received. This had been carried out by a professor of criminology and a

Doctor of Criminology who also sits on the Sentencing Council. Some relevant points –

- There has been a reduction in those appearing in custody
- Those accepting had greater complexities
- Reduction of those declining – they perhaps had more support
- 168 people returned to a crime free life, equivalent to 1 person per week for the lifetime of the project

Mhairi mentioned that due to monies from the HADP the project was able to continue for the time being, however, this would only last until March 2024 and as such the project will cease taking referrals late September 2023.

The money required to sustain the project is approx £130k. This is not a high cost considering the content of the 2 evaluations carried out.

7. CJ Annual Report 2022/23:

Margaret spoke to the template report that had been circulated and mentioned to the group that there is still some information missing.

Ross mentioned that there has been several requests for the information and that the information we have at the moment could be what is submitted.

Margaret mentioned that the current version which will be submitted to the CPP Board could well be what is submitted to Community Justice Scotland by 29 September.

Mhairi confirmed that if further additions were made to the document after 15 September (CPP Board Meeting) then we would need to seek further approval from them which is not practical or likely.

Andrew agreed to chase up the information from CJSW following the meeting today.

8. Finance:

Mhairi mentioned that community justice gets just short of £63k per annum and it was increasingly likely that this uplift from £50k in previous years would remain.

All of the money received into the Council from the Scottish Government has been drawn down to HTSI.

Currently we are looking at £15k for a piece of research work which has already been agreed by the partnership. There is an underspend due to covid and as HTSI is a charity are legally bound to spend any surplus monies.

This is one of three component parts, of which we are about to discuss the other two.

9. Development & CPO Role:

Mhairi spoke to the paper that had been circulated. This post would assist the CJ Partnership Manager with engagement work/toolkits/action plans and would provide more sustainability for the partnership. It will be a part-time post for 2 years.

It is envisaged that the person would be able to work with minimal management with an ability to work on their own and have more experience of life.

AGREED to progress with this post

10. Community Justice Pipeline Data Base:

Mhairi spoke to the paper explaining it was based on the employability pipeline concept and would outline the justice journey. It has emerged through the custody link project that many clients don't know what information of support is there for them or how to access this.

Yellow Cherry have compiled the CPP website and it is thought it might be a good idea to commission them in the sense it could be similar in appearance/features of usage.

There were questions around updates and training which will be discussed with Yellow Cherry.

AGREED to progress with Yellow Cherry

11. Good News:

Andrew mentioned that there is a new Sheriff, Neil Wilson who will be covering Tain and Wick.

Alan mentioned his team are looking at establishing peer support.

Ross mentioned that CAB are providing free training to organisations around gambling addictions. The leaflets will be shared with the partnership.

Margaret mentioned she would share information in relation to an input around the links between gambling and domestic abuse.

12. Partner Updates:

Mhairi (HTSI) mentioned there has been a change of management at Café 1668. She also mentioned that along with Judy Hill from the police, she has been invited to speak at an event in November about the Custody Link Project.

Mark (SPS) mentioned that the site for the new prison is starting to make progress and it's estimated to be ready at the end of 2024 or early 2025.

Derek (Housing) mentioned that there have been some managerial changes and that he will be on secondment and our CJ link for the next 12 months as Iver has moved on.

Andrew (CJSW) mentioned that they have recently recruited a quality assurance and research information officer which they have been without for some time.

Frances (HADP) informed the group that they have recently appointed an independent chair. Although the statistics for drugs and alcohol appear to be down nationally, in Highland they have gone up by 20%. There will be a workshop on 24 October for partners to engage around this. We will be looking at what we can do now in Highland as we are not seeing the number of cocaine deaths that are being seen nationally.

Louise (UHI) updated that within UHI they see things replicated that are happening in the community and there is a need to adapt practice to deal with this.

Ross mentioned that it would be worth Louise and/or Lindsay attending the partnership meetings.

Miles (SFRS) mentioned the structural changes and that he has replaced Niall MacLennan and James is the new local officer. They can see lots of cross-over with their Highland local delivery plan, protection & prevention with e.g. police, social work. There are some youth projects including Fireskills, anti-social behaviour projects and road/driving issues.

James (SFRS) mentioned there are 9 members of staff working in community action teams looking at activities, initiatives, fire safety and working with NHS and social care.

Fiona (SCRA) mentioned that there are lots more face-to-face children's hearings and court hearings. They have seen more referrals - standard, serious assault, and sexual offences. In the past three months there have been more offence referrals than non-offence referrals. There have also been more joint referrals which are tending to come back to the Reporter. It is mainly young men who are being referred at the moment.

Roddy (SDS) updated that the Scottish Government are looking at the annual participation measurement for 16 – 19 year olds. Highland has 94.9% which is above the annual figure. There is no break down for those with convictions in this. There will be changes within SDS and they are currently waiting to hear from the SG what these will be.

Julie (DWP) updated the meeting that they are seeing more people with mental health and drug and alcohol issues who are not yet ready for employment. There will be an employability event within HMP Inverness on 31 October.

Alan (HTSI/Custody Links) mentioned that there is a Suicide Prevention input being held within the Botanic Gardens in Inverness.

13. AOCB: Ross mentioned the engagement within the partnership and that it would be useful to know whether the meeting is useful to partners or not.

Margaret offered to meet with partners on a 1 – 1 basis to discuss community justice if that would be helpful.

A discussion took place around having a meeting space to discuss what partners are doing and that the likelihood is, we are all working with the same people.

There is some difficulty with acronyms as these mean different things in different organisations.

Unplanned liberations from prison cause difficulty in forward planning for the person's release.

Ross mentioned the possibility of having an input at meetings from perhaps 2 partners.

14. Date of next CJP Meeting:
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
10/22	Contact Apex re. work that potentially those on CPOs could carry out. <i>Ross will contact Apex again.</i>	Ross		Complete
18/22	Arrange photograph of CJP	Margaret		Ongoing
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		Ongoing
4/23	Margaret to share the conference evaluation document with the partnership	Margaret		Complete
5/23	Partners to feedback information for CJ Annual Report as soon as possible	All		Complete
6/23	Margaret to look at a date for partners to meet to progress the new CJ Plan	Margaret		Complete
7/23	Discuss with VAW Group in relation to tangible Actions for new CJOIP around women & girls and first-time offenders	Jenny		Ongoing
8/23	Assess whether representation from the CJP would be welcome at the Court Liaison Meetings locally	Andrew MacDonald		Ruth Thomson has been contacted. Andrew will chase up - ongoing

9/23	List of attendees and their job title to be circulated amongst the group	Margaret		Complete