



Highland Community Justice Partnership

Minutes of Meeting held 1400 – 1600, Thursday 7 December 2023, Police Scotland N Division HQ, Old Perth Rd, Inverness, IV2 3SY

Present: Ross MacKillop (Chair), Fiona Farquhar SCRA, Roddy Bailey SDS, Julie Mirvis DWP, Kate MacLean Councillor THC, Irene Johnstone RASASH

In Attendance: Margaret McShane HTSI, Alan Grant HTSI

Apologies:

1. Sheriff Sara Matheson (Standing Apologies), Mhairi Wylie HTSI, Carol Spratt NHSH, Derek Manson THC Housing, Jenny Valentine Police Scotland, Mark Holloway SPS, Frances Matthewson HADP

2. Declaration of interest:

None

Ross mentioned the lack of attendance at the meeting and Roddy suggested that a hybrid meeting might work better.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

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

AGREED as correct.

In relation to Action 7/23, Margaret will contact Jenny to see if there is any update around this.

4. 2 x 5 Minute Partner Updates:

This item was abandoned due to the low turnout at the meeting.

5. Community Justice Update:

Margaret spoke to the paper that had been circulated and mentioned that the new Development Officer will start on 9 January. This should assist in terms of progressing some of the pieces of work for the partnership including the new website and the research around female offending.

6. Custody Link Project Update:

Margaret spoke to the report that had been circulated and mentioned that the funding for the project is still in jeopardy, with it likely that the project will cease taking new referrals in the next couple of weeks if no funding is secured.

A short discussion around funding followed.

7. CJ Plan 2024:

Margaret spoke to the paper that had been circulated and updated the meeting that this is what had been agreed at the CJ Plan Development Day in November. This will be the Action Plan and that the narrative in relation to the plan is in the process of being compiled.

8. Finance:

There was no formal or verbal update in relation to the finances, but Margaret mentioned that there had been no real change in relation to finances since the previous meeting.

9. Sub Group Discussion:

Margaret circulated a paper to the group outlining a proposal for discussion around the possibility of moving to a Sub Group model for the CJP. This had been suggested by the CJS Improvement Lead for Highland with a view to gaining better engagement and progression of strands of work within the partnership.

The group had no objection to the proposal and thought it might work quite well.

It was agreed that Margaret would circulate the proposal to the wider group for their views over the coming weeks.

Action – Margaret to circulate the proposal to the wider CJP

10. Good News:

Nothing of note.

11. Partner Updates:

Alan mentioned that the Custody Link Workers currently have 60 active cases.

Roddy mentioned that they are working in schools and that there are changes ahead for SDS but these are still unknown at the moment. Colleagues are working to deliver Skills Framework and Green Freeport.

Fiona mentioned that the Children Care & Justice Bill will be affecting them and they are waiting to hear when they will be dealing with 16-17 year olds, and there is still a question around funding in relation to this.

SCRA have been invited to the police meetings re Child Exploitation which includes multi-agency working. This includes young people sometimes up to 20 years of age.

Fiona mentioned she will attend the Re-imagining Youth Justice day next week in Inverness.

Irene mentioned that RASASH are averaging 1 referral per day at the moment. There is a new website, animation and logo. They have a worker who is working with a group of survivors to make Zines (magazines). There is a worker now in Caithness and they have some prevention workers in schools in Highland.

RCS have produced a guide to the Scottish Justice System.

RASASH have recently won 2 awards for Reducing Vulnerability and Volunteer of the Year.

Kate mentioned that the upcoming budget is taking up a lot of her time.

Julie mentioned that they will be holding another employment event in HMP Inverness in February 2024. There will be partners and employers invited to that event which prisoners find helpful. There have been some difficulties with housing as the officer is not in the prison as often just now and Housing First is not available.

Action – Derek to provide an update to the CJP re Housing First or alternative

Julie also mentioned that there are people coming into DWP who don't seem to be getting support with their mental health. The situation can end up with them being put back into prison.

12. AOCB:

Nothing of note.

13. Date of next CJP Meeting:
TBC



Action Table

No	Action	Who	Due Date	Update
5/20	Executive summary of findings following Small Change for Justice	Margaret		Complete
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
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
7/23	Discuss with VAW Group in relation to tangible Actions for new CJOIP around women & girls and first-time offenders	Jenny		Ongoing Margaret to obtain an update from Jenny
8/23	Assess whether representation from the CJP would be welcome at the Court Liaison Meetings locally	Andrew MacDonald		Ongoing
9/23	Proposal re subgroups to be circulated to wider CJP	Margaret		
10/23	Update re. Housing First or alternative to be circulated to CJP	Derek		