

Community Justice Partnership

Minutes of Meeting of the Community Justice Partnership held in Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Wednesday 22 February 2017 at 10.30 am

Present:

Mr L Fraser, Highland Council
Mrs I McCallum, Highland Council
Mr G Mackenzie, Highland Council
Mr D Millar, Highland Council
Mrs I Campbell, Highland Council
Mr G Rimell, Highland Council
Detective Supt C Carey, Police Scotland
Mr A Macdonald, Apex Scotland
Ms L Bligh, Libertie Project
Ms L Dorward, Scottish Prison Service

In attendance:

Ms M McShane, Community Justice Project Manager
Mr J Maybee, Principal Officer, Criminal Justice, Highland Council
Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Highland Council

Mr D Millar in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr M MacBean, Victim Support Scotland and Ms J Macdonald, NHS Highland.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

There was circulated and **APPROVED** the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 December 2016.

4. Community Justice Update

There was circulated Report No CJP/01/17 dated 14 February 2017 by the Director of Care and Learning which provided an update and overview of progress with the implementation of Community Justice in Highland.

It was advised that work was continuing on the Community Justice Plan which was required to be in place by 31 March 2017. The Plan would require to be submitted to Community Justice Scotland for comment by the end of February in order to ensure

that it was ready for implementation on 1 April, 2017, the same date as the formal launch of Community Justice Scotland. All partners involved would be signing up to the Plan and it would make clear what the priorities were. A formal launch of the Community Justice Plan would be held in May, 2017 and the Chief Executive of Community Justice Scotland, had been invited to attend this event. It was hoped that good progress could be made to achieve the priorities set out in the Plan and also a review would be undertaken of the longer term vision for the next Plan.

It was advised that there was a specific section in the Plan relating to mental health issues in Highland which required NHS Highland input. A response from NHS Highland was still awaited on this. If no response was received, this section in the Plan would have to be deleted. Members stressed the importance of this section in the Plan being completed and also the need for regular NHS Highland representation at Partnership meetings. The Chairman undertook to raise these issues with the Director of Care and Learning and/or the Chief Executive of NHS Highland.

Engagement with Community Partnerships would continue with a view to asking how they would like community justice information to be taken forward in their area. However, it was noted that some of the Community Partnerships in Highland were working well, while others had not had meetings as yet. Therefore the Community Justice Project Manager undertook to arrange a meeting with Community Partnership Chairs in the first instance to facilitate this.

Thereafter, the Partnership:-

i **AGREED** the update and plans, which would take the implementation of Community Justice forward within Highland; and

ii **AGREED** that the Chairman would stress the importance of NHS Highland representation at Partnership meetings and the need for their input to the Community Justice Plan, with the Director of Care and Learning, Highland Council and/or the Chief Executive of NHS Highland.

5. Review of Community Justice Partnership Structure

There was circulated Report No. CJP/02/17 dated 14 February, 2017 by the Director of Care and Learning which provided an update and overview of the review of the Community Justice Partnership structure within Highland. A proposed new structure and terms of reference for a Highland Community Justice Partnership was included in the report. Members were invited to comment and agree the plans to restructure the Community Justice Partnership within Highland.

In relation to the proposed membership of the new Partnership, a view was expressed that the Council should have a minimum of two representatives on the Partnership given the large geographical area that had to be covered and to give a political balance to the business of the Partnership. However, it was felt that while the work of the Partnership would be a lot of responsibility for one Elected Member, the Highland Council could set up a Community Justice Sub Group to allow other Elected Members to discuss and provide support to the Council's representative on the business of the Partnership. Also, if the representative was not able to attend a meeting a substitute should be permitted to attend. This would be a similar issue for other agencies on the Partnership who would have their own arrangements for providing support to their representative on the Partnership. It was therefore suggested that the proposed

Membership of the Community Justice Partnership be reviewed after a period of one year.

It was also felt that a Sub Group of Elected Members would be in a good position to spread awareness, engage and consult on the work of the Community Justice Partnership to the wider community. It was suggested that the Council's representative on the Partnership could be a Chair of a Strategic Committee as at present, but this would have to be decided by the new Council following the Local Government Election in May, 2017.

Thereafter, the Partnership **AGREED**:-

- i the plans to restructure the Community Justice Partnership within Highland;
- ii that the Membership of the Partnership be reviewed after a period of one year; and
- iii that the Chair would undertake to request that the Director of Care and Learning give consideration to the formation of a Cross-Party Sub Group of Elected Members to support the Council's representative on the Community Justice Partnership, and for one of the Sub-Group to substitute for the Council's representative in their absence at meetings.

6. Community Justice Plan

There was circulated the Highland Community Justice Plan for 2017/18. The Plan covered an overview and context of Community Justice; a Participation Statement; Governance and the Partnership Structure; Equalities within the Plan; Identified needs; the priorities and outcomes of the Plan for the period 2017-2018, and aspirations for future years. The Plan would require to be reviewed and progress against the actions in the Plan would be reported to the Scottish Government.

The Partnership were asked to agree the Plan in principle and Partner agencies should be aware that they were signing up to what was in the Plan. In relation to the section in the Plan relating to Mental Health issues, this required input from NHS Highland, and failing this, this section would require to be removed. Further, it was intended to include an action in this section relating to Community Psychiatric Nurse Addictions (CPNA). It was explained that between Criminal Justice and Forensic Mental Health Services there were good links, but there were not such good links with CPNA working with people with drug and alcohol problems. From a Criminal Justice perspective this could be improved to achieve better outcomes for the individuals that CPNA and Criminal Justice staff were working with. Therefore, the Principal Officer, Community Justice undertook to speak to NHS Highland regarding an action in the Plan relating to CPNA.

It was advised that there was some really good positive work going on at present between the NHS and the third sector organisations and there was a need for the Partnership to be more aware of the work that was being undertaken.

A number of the actions in the Plan would be multi agency led and therefore there was a need for all the agencies to contribute to the actions to meet the deadlines.

In terms of raising awareness of the Plan, it was incumbent on the Partnership to ensure that information about the Plan was accessible and in a format that was easy

to read. The use of social media and electronic distribution of the Plan would be important in raising awareness. In this respect, reference was made to a Scottish Government Borrow a Boffin Scheme where you could borrow a Scottish Government Statistician who would provide assistance to you on a specified project to turn data that was meaningful and accessible to other people. The closing date for expressions of interest was 6 March, 2017.

Thereafter, the Partnership:-

i **AGREED in Principle** the Highland Community Justice Plan for 2017/18, subject to any minor amendments that were required; and

ii **NOTED** that the Principal Officer, Community Justice undertook to speak to NHS Highland regarding an action in the Plan relating to CPNA.

7. Participatory Budgeting

There was circulated Report No CJP/03/17 dated 14 February, 2017 by the Director of Care and Learning which provided an overview of the Participatory Budgeting (PB) scheme which was proposed for use within the realms of community justice in Highland.

The report also provided an update on the funding from Scottish Government for the transition to the new model of Community Justice. It was advised that there was likely to be available in 2017/18 for community justice, approximately £65,000 combining underspends from 2015/16 and 2016/17 with the full year transition funding in 2017/18. It was proposed that some of the surplus funding, approximately £25,000 be used for PB. This would allow a number of third sector projects to be funded. Other options were to fund the Community Justice Manager post in 2018/19 and any alternative funding proposals.

In relation to the PB proposal, it was felt that all applications meeting the criteria should go forward to the Bidding event, rather than a Panel deciding which applications should go forward. It was also felt that the process was too restrictive in that applications would only be considered from third sector bodies and constituted groups and in order for there to be community engagement in PB there was a need for applications from the wider community. There was also discussion on the voting process proposed at the PB event. There were different ways of undertaking the voting process and it would be useful for the Community Justice Manager to speak to the Council's Community and Democratic Engagement Manager on his experiences of PB events in Highland. In terms of the proposed PB process and voting process, this followed guidance from the Scottish Government, but however, an undertaking was given to clarify the voting process. Also, no public body would fund an un-constituted group as they did not meet the financial criteria, but there was support available for communities to set up a constituted group.

Thereafter, the Partnership **AGREED**:-

i the plans to take forward the process of PB for community justice within Highland, and that clarification would be sought on the voting process for the Bidding event;

ii that approximately £25,000 be used for PB; and

iii that approximately £40,000 be used to fund the Community Justice Manager post in 2018/19.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The Partnership **NOTED** that the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 22 June 2017 at 2.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon.