



## **Highland Community Justice Partnership**

Minutes of Meeting held 1030 – 1230 Wednesday 6 March 2024, Police Scotland N Division HQ, Old Perth Rd, Inverness, IV2 3SY

Present: Ross MacKillop (Chair), Andrew MacDonald THC CJSW, Derek Manson THC Housing, Daniel Jack Police Scotland, Caroline black DWP, Chris Holloway Apex, Karen McEwan Families Outside, Myra Ross VAWG, Peter MacKenzie VAWG

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

### Apologies:

1. Sheriff Sara Matheson (Standing Apologies), Carol Spratt NHSH, Frances Matthewson HADP, Fiona Farquhar SCRA, Roddy Bailey SDS, Julie Mirvis DWP, Kate MacLean Councillor THC, Margaret McIntyre THC, Ruth Thomson SCTS, Louise Martin-Theyers UHI, Peter Hindley Custody Police Scotland, Scott Watson SPS

Ross thanked Margaret for all her work in relation to community justice in Highland as this will be her last partnership meeting.

### 2. Violence Against Women Input:

Peter informed the group of the work of the VAW Group which encompasses the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference process (MARAC). They work using the Equally Safe document, SG and COSLA documents which provides 4 aims in relation to raising awareness and reducing gender-based violence in Highland.

Their 4 Delivery groups are Addressing Perpetrators, Service Delivery, MARAC and Training, Learning and Development. HVAWP are one of the 5 pillars within the Highland Public Protection and report to the Chief Officers Group in Highland. The VAW Group work with the public and third sectors which includes the local authority, NHS and police. The VAW Group cover Highland and MARAC also includes the islands. Membership of the group includes Women's Aid, COPFS, Housing and Adult & Child Protection. The membership is reviewed annually.

Myra is involved with training for the VAW Group and updated the meeting about her role and some of the work she has been carrying out.

Both welcomed the opportunity to work more collaboratively with the CJP.

3. Declaration of interest:

None

4. Minutes of previous meeting:

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

AGREED as correct.

Re Action 10/23, Derek updated that Housing First is being reviewed and that he would update the group in relation to this at a later date.

Derek also mentioned that he is currently reviewing the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone, SHORE Standards work. He has recently met with Kerry O'Hagan, Head of Offender Outcomes from the prison which has been positive in progressing this work. There is also work around supporting people on release, not just with housing but assisting them with other issues they may have.

5. Community Justice Update:

Margaret spoke to the paper that had been circulated and mentioned that some concerns had been raised around the country in relation to the Throughcare Commissioning Project and if this will be one service as reported or if there will be separate services for males and females.

Margaret had sought clarity over whether this model would include smaller local services and it appears it will.

Mhairi mentioned that this may include involvement of TSIs nationally in relation to highlighting the proposal and application process to third sector organisations. There are also concerns in relation to the proposed budget for the proposed national service.

Andrew mentioned that CJSW are now also working with people prior to conviction so this would not be included in the 'Throughcare' as this is for post-conviction.

Margaret also mentioned the work involved in the Community Support Services Tool (CSST) and that many areas have found this to be an onerous

piece of work within tight timescales. There are concerns in relation to the maintenance of this information in the future and how well it is actually being used by Sheriffs – the purpose for which it was intended.

In relation to the new justice website that has been developed, Margaret mentioned that it would be useful to get feedback around this and for statutory agencies to consider whether they would want details of what they can offer to be included.

**Action** – link to the website to be circulated for feedback/information

In relation to Café 1668, Mhairi updated that the café is in a financially difficult place and that options are being looked at to assist in continuing this service.

6. Custody Link Project Update:

Alan spoke to the paper that had been circulated and mentioned that he'd spoken to a Sergeant within the Custody Division of Police Scotland who has a national role. She appeared to be impressed with the work of the Custody Link Project and mentioned that this is seen as a gold standard and would be keen to have conversations with other areas in Scotland around this work.

A healthcare initiative which provides food boxes for those who have been in custody has been set up with Inverness Foodbank.

Access to mental health care continues to be an issue for clients.

Alan informed the meeting of a case study.

A discussion took place around people gaining access to the services they require and the difficulties around this.

Mhairi updated the meeting that there are still difficulties with the financial situation of the project. Although £19k has been received from Police Scotland, if the money from the HADP is not secured then the project will only run for a further 6 months.

Ross mentioned that perhaps the costs around community sentences versus prison would help focus some thoughts.

Mhairi mentioned the work that is being carried out by HADP and NHS in relation to addiction counselling for Highland and that funding for Addictions Counselling Inverness is unclear at this stage.

Peter mentioned that there is a new format for the COG and that this will entail highlighting potential risks.

7. CJ Plan 2024:

Margaret spoke to the plan that had been circulated. This had been approved in principle by the CPP Board on 1 March.

Margaret then updated the meeting that Community Justice Scotland had been consulted on the proposed plan and had provided feedback suggesting the following should be included within the content of the plan –

*“The plan does not currently meet the requirement of statutory partners to assess the existing status of each national outcome in the Highland area. Statutory partners have agreed to engage in a subgroup model which will enable the provision of a baseline for each national outcome within the first year of this plan and subsequently develop appropriate improvement actions based on a clearer understanding of gaps through the lifecycle of the plan.”*

A discussion thereafter took place in relation to the engagement of particularly statutory partners at the CJP and how the work might be better progressed through the subgroup model that had been agreed in January 2024.

8. Finance:

Mhairi updated the meeting that there will be another £62.5k coming forward. Of late money has been used against the Development Officer post, website construction and research work. Some budget planning will be required by the partnership in order that there is some financial oversight. Decisions on how the money will be spent will also need to be considered.

9. Good News:

Nothing of note.

10. Partner Updates:

Gabrielle introduced herself to the meeting and spoke briefly about her role.

Andrew mentioned that the programme Moving Forward Making Changes is changing to Moving Forward to Change. There is a new Sheriff Neil Wilson who will be covering Tain and Wick courts.

Derek mentioned that there was an input around Fit Homes for vulnerable/homeless client delivered at the Sheriff’s annual event. There may be an opportunity to implement something around this as a disposal. Derek also mentioned the Safe at Home project where they are receiving referrals

from the police in relation to those involved in county lines and there is an increased in demand which will require a response. There is a plan around Sanctuary Housing being worked on and there is also work around preventing domestic abuse victims going down the homeless route. Karen mentioned that VSS have emergency funding for victims of domestic abuse.

Daniel mentioned that the Preventions and Interventions now also have a Service Delivery Team.

Caroline updated that this was her first meeting and replaces Julie Mirvis, so not much to add at this stage.

Chris updated that Apex have a new CEO and there is a bit of a transition on the way services are delivered. Shine and New Routes are still being delivered at the moment.

Karen updated that she is currently working with 13 families in Highland, this includes 4 children. A children's group has recently started which supports children who have a loved one in prison and offers an opportunity for peer support, currently 5 children are involved. Highland is the only area in Scotland who are being offered this service.

Myra mentioned the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence and that she could share a video which raises awareness.

11. AOCB:

Margaret mentioned the funding for Families Outside and Karen confirmed that Highland is contributing to the funding.

12. Date of next CJP Meetings:

Wed 19 June 1400 – 1600 – main conference room

Wed 11 September 1000 – 1200 – main conference room

Wed 11 December 1000 – 1200 – main conference room

## Action Table

No	Action	Who	Due Date	Update
19/20	Review communication of CJP information	All		Mar '24, ongoing – Comms Strategy for new CJ Plan to be developed
12/21	Consideration of good news around unpaid work being posted on twitter and/or Facebook	Ross & Maria		Mar '24, Ongoing through Development Officer role and new role within CJSW in relation to this.
18/22	Arrange photograph of CJP	Margaret		Ongoing
2/23	Compile proposal for Engagement/Research work	Mhairi & Margaret		<b>Complete</b> – work is underway
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  Ross to contact UHI for an update
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 – <i>Not progressed or developed as yet, this can be captured during the lifetime of the plan once ready to be progressed?</i>
8/23	Assess whether representation from the CJP would be welcome at the Court Liaison Meetings locally	Andrew MacDonald		<b>Complete</b>
9/23	Proposal re subgroups to be circulated to wider CJP	Margaret		<b>Complete</b>
10/23	Update re. Housing First or alternative to be circulated to CJP	Derek		Ongoing
1/24	Link to website to be circulated for feedback/consideration of inclusion of information	Margaret		