

ARGYLL, BUTE AND DUNBARTONSHIRES' CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires' Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership Joint Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Thursday, 1 September 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Elaine Robertson (Argyll and Bute Council), Councillor Gordan Low (East Dunbartonshire Council) and Councillors Gail Casey and Jonathan McColl (West Dunbartonshire Council).

Attending: **Argyll and Bute Council:** Jon Belton, Assistant Partnership Manager and Kirsteen Green, Planning and Evaluation Officer.

East Dunbartonshire Council: Tony Keogh, Head of Social Work Services.

West Dunbartonshire Council: Anne Ritchie, Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice Services; Norman Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager; Adrian Gray, Business Unit Accountant and Nuala Borthwick, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Andrew Nisbet (Argyll and Bute Council) and Michael O'Donnell (East Dunbartonshire Council); Douglas Dunlop, Head of Service (Children, Families, Young People and Criminal Justice (Argyll and Bute Council) and Freda McShane, Children & Families Manager (East Dunbartonshire Council).

CONDOLENCES – JOHN FLEMING

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chair, Councillor Robertson, made reference to the tragic loss of Mr John Fleming, Assistant Criminal Justice Partnership Manager and, on behalf of the Partnership, expressed her sincere condolences to John's family and colleagues. Councillor Robertson remarked that John's passing had been an absolute tragedy and that he would be greatly missed by all who knew him.

It was agreed that the Criminal Justice Manager, on behalf of the Committee, would send flowers and write to John's family advising that he would be sorely missed by all Members and Officers of the Joint Committee.

Thereafter, the Head of Social Work (East Dunbartonshire Council) concurred with Councillor Robertson's comments advising that John was a respected colleague and would be sadly missed by his colleagues at East Dunbartonshire Council.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair, Councillor Robertson, advised that she wished to include two additional items of business to the agenda and, that these would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Committee held on 9 Jun 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR PERIOD 3 ENDING 30 JUNE 2011

A report was submitted by the Treasurer providing information on how key elements within the Criminal Justice Partnership were performing against budget for the period ending 30 June 2011.

Having heard the Business Unit Accountant in further explanation of the report, the Joint Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

FINAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR 2010/11 – PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2011

A report was submitted by the Treasurer providing information on the final position of the Criminal Justice Partnership budget for financial year 2010/2011.

Having heard the Business Unit Accountant in further explanation of the report and following discussion, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the favourable variance of £6,709 as at 31 March 2011;
- (2) to congratulate officers on their work in achieving a favourable variance given the current financial climate; and
- (3) to otherwise note the contents of this report.

PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK 2011/2014

A report was submitted by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership advising of progress in the initial phase of the Partnerships' Planning and Performance Improvement Framework 2011/2014.

Following discussion and having heard the Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice Services and the Criminal Justice Partnership Manager in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Partnership Manager would provide regular updates on progress throughout the year; and
- (2) to otherwise note the contents of the report.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP: COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

A report was submitted by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership:-

- (a) advising of the completion of the Partnership's Commissioning Strategy; and
- (b) seeking approval for it to be carried forward within the Partnership Planning and Performance Improvement Framework.

Following discussion and having heard the Criminal Justice Partnership Manager and the Business Unit Accountant in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the Partnership Commissioning Strategy;
- (2) to note that the Strategy will be formally reviewed annually and the Partnership Manager will report the outcome of the review to the Joint Committee on an annual basis; and
- (3) to otherwise note the contents of the report.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESOURCE GAPS/UNMET NEED

A report was submitted by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership advising on the Partnership's plans to deal with issues of resource gaps and unmet need during a time of anticipated retrenchment.

Having heard the Partnership Manager and the Planning and Evaluation Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Partnership Manager would continue to provide annual reports on resource gaps/unmet needs; and
- (2) to otherwise note the contents of the report.

ANNUAL REPORT TO NORTH STRATHCLYDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY – 2010/2011

A report was submitted by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership advising of the annual report in respect of Criminal Justice Social Work Services which would be considered by the Criminal Justice Authority Board at its meeting on 2 September 2011.

Having heard the Partnership Manager in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the Local Authority Annual Report to North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority 2010-2011 which would be considered by the Criminal Justice Authority Board at its meeting on 2 September 2011; and
- (2) to otherwise note the contents of the report.

COMMISSION ON WOMEN OFFENDERS

A report was submitted by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership advising of the establishment of a Commission tasked with finding an effective way of dealing with women offenders in the Criminal Justice System in Scotland.

Following discussion and having heard the Partnership Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Partnership Manager would provide comparative figures for the general population of male and female offenders direct to Councillor Low;
- (2) to note the concerns expressed in relation to the short timescale for submission of a final report to Ministers in February 2011 and the consensus that more time should be taken by the Commission if required in order to provide a genuine and robust report; and
- (3) that the Partnership Manager would report back on the outcome of the Commission's work in due course.

UPDATE ON TREASURER OF PARTNERSHIP

A report was submitted by the Treasurer advising of a change in Treasurer to the Joint Partnership.

Having heard the Partnership Manager in elaboration of the report, the Joint Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

REPRESENTATION BY ALCOHOL AND DRUG PARTNERSHIPS ON THE JOINT COMMITTEE

The Joint Committee heard from the Chair, Councillor Robertson, who requested that consideration be given to the inclusion of the Alcohol and Drug Partnership on the Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires' Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership Joint Committee.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Chairs of the Alcohol and Drug Partnerships for each of the three Partnership authorities be co-opted on to the Joint Committee;
- (2) that the appropriate officers of the Alcohol and Drug Partnerships be invited to attend meetings of the Joint Committee where appropriate; and
- (3) that an update report on relevant issues would be provided to every third meeting of the Joint Committee by the Alcohol and Drug Partnerships.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDERS

The Joint Committee heard from the Partnership Manager who provided an update on the additional funding provided by the Scottish Government to assist in the implementation of Community Payback Orders.

It was noted that a capital bid for sustainable projects/unpaid work projects to upgrade and enhance sporting facilities in each of the Partnership authorities (eg develop changing facilities, upgrade cycle tracks, etc) would be identified in conjunction with Sports Scotland and the Councils' Sports Development Teams to ensure and was required to be submitted to the Scottish Government in December 2011.

Following discussion and having heard the Partnership Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) that authority would be delegated for approval of the capital bid for the project(s) to the Convener of the Joint Committee prior to submission to the Convener of the Criminal Justice Authority for their approval;
- (2) that a copy of the bid would be sent to Members of the Joint Committee for comment in November 2011 prior to submission to the Criminal Justice Authority; and
- (3) that a copy of the final bid would be provided to the Joint Committee at its meeting in December 2011.

NEXT MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

Thereafter, the Joint Committee considered the previous suggestion that the December meeting of the Joint Partnership be held in Low Moss Prison.

Following discussion and having heard the Assistant Partnership Manager, East Dunbartonshire Council, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Assistant Partnership Manager would discuss the matter with the Governor at Low Moss Prison and advise members accordingly;
- (2) to note that the Partnership Manager had taken on the commissioning of services at Low Moss Prison, and
- (3) to thank the Partnership Manager for his hard work and efforts in covering the additional workload of the service.

The meeting closed at 3.34 p.m.