

## **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, 6 September 2012 at 2.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors Elaine Robertson and Anne Horn (Argyll and Bute 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 and Megan Harris, Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

**West Dunbartonshire Council:** Norman Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager; Adrian Gray, Business Unit Accountant and Nuala Borthwick, Committee Officer.

**East Dunbartonshire Council:** Keith Gardner, Assistant Partnership Manager.

**Also**

**Attending:** Ian Angus MacDonald, Substitute Member, Argyll and Bute Council.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Michael O'Donnell (East Dunbartonshire Council) and Jackie Irvine, Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice Services.

It was noted that the meeting of the Joint Committee was inquorate in terms of the Minute of Agreement as there was no Member representation from East Dunbartonshire Council. In the circumstances it was noted (a) that the items of business on the agenda would be submitted for information/discussed on an informal basis only and that any matters which required approval would be held over to the next scheduled meeting of the Joint Committee; and (b) that an informal note of the proceedings would be recorded.

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair, Councillor Robertson welcomed everyone present to the meeting of the Joint Committee and introductions were made around the table.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Committee held on 14 June 2012 were submitted and noted.

Having heard Mr Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager in response to the Chair's request for an update on the review of Community Payback, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that, in terms of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010, an annual report would be submitted to the Scottish Government in October and would include information on CPO community consultation and unpaid work projects; and
- (2) to note that it would be worthwhile to provide a presentation on CPOs at a meeting of full Council at each partner council or a council committee involving the local community in order to raise the profile of the benefit to local communities and to offenders, following completion of the review work currently being undertaken.

## **SOCIAL WORK SERVICES: HMP LOWMOSS**

A report was submitted by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership advising of progress with regard to commissioning of the Prison Based Social Work (PBSW) service within HMP Lowmoss.

The Joint Committee heard from Mr Gardner, Assistant Partnership Manager, East Dunbartonshire Council who advised that the arrangements concerning the provision of Prison Based Social Work Services within HMP Lowmoss by East Dunbartonshire Council were now approaching completion. It was anticipated that the service would be fully functional by the end of October 2012. Mr Gardner also reported that there were a number of issues which were still to be resolved between the Scottish Prison Service and East Dunbartonshire Council therefore the Service Level Agreement had not yet been signed. However progress was being made in this regard.

Following discussion and having heard the Assistant Partnership Manager, East Dunbartonshire Council in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMISSION OF WOMEN OFFENDERS: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

A report was submitted by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership advising of the recommendations of the Commission on Women Offenders published in April 2012 and of the Scottish Government's response.

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

- (1) to note that further reports on progress in implementing the Commission's recommendations would be brought to the Committee in due course; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

### **BREACH RATES 2010/11**

A report was submitted by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership advising on the breach rate of Probation and Community Services Orders (CSO) being supervised by the Partnership.

Following discussion and having heard Mr Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager and Ms Green, Planning and Evaluation Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the continued monitoring and analysis of breach rates;
- (2) to request further reports on the level of breaches within the Partnership with regard to Community Payback Orders; and
- (3) to note that future reports would refer to Community Payback Orders which replaced Probation and Community Service for offences committed on or after 1 February 2011.

### **AGGREGATE RETURN 2010/2011**

A report was submitted by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership providing information on the activity levels provided by the Partnership via the Aggregate Return to the Scottish Government which was also contained in the published Criminal Justice Social Work Bulletin for 2010/11.

Following discussion and having heard Mr Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager in further explanation of the report, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to continue to monitor and profile activity levels with regard to the Aggregate Return; and

- (2) otherwise to note the terms of the discussion which had taken place in relation to the increase in Throughcare cases.

### **PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN: HIGH RISK OFFENDERS 2011/2012**

A report was submitted by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership advising of progress being made with regard to the completion of the Performance Improvement Plan: High Risk Offenders 2011-2012.

Following discussion and having heard Mr Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager and relevant officers in further explanation of the report, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the contents of the report;
- (2) to note that an update on the outstanding actions which have been incorporated into existing strategies and operational plans, would be provided at the next meeting of the Partnership;
- (3) that the Partnership Manager would submit regular reports to future meetings on matters affecting the management of high risk offenders under the terms of the Partnership's Performance Improvement Programme; and
- (4) to note that information relevant to the Alcohol and Drug Partnerships should be included in future reports on the management of high risk offenders.

### **REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT 2012/13 AS AT PERIOD 3 (30 JUNE 2012)**

A report was submitted by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership providing an update on the financial performance of the Criminal Justice Partnership to 30 June 2012.

Having heard the Business Unit Finance Partner (CHCP) in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

### **PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Members agreed to note the dates, times and venues for future scheduled meetings of the Joint Committee as undernoted:-

Thursday, 13 December 2012 at 2.00 p.m. in Meeting Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton.

Thursday, 7 March 2013 at 2.00 p.m. in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton.

Thursday, 13 June 2013 at 2.00 p.m. in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton.

Thursday, 5 September 2013 at 2.00 p.m. in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton.

Members were requested to note that these dates have been scheduled to be held one day prior to the future meetings of the North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority as requested by the Joint Committee.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.