



Report by Chief Officer - West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership

Management Group : 3 February 2022

Subject: Community Justice Partnership Arrangements

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on local and national community justice developments and highlight the need to establish a Community Justice Partnership in West Dunbartonshire in order to meet the statutory duties in the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Community Planning Management Board is asked to:

- Note the content of the report;
- Note the West Dunbartonshire Annual Outcome Progress Report 2020/2021 submitted to Community Justice Scotland (Appendix 1);
- Note the national documentation, Justice Strategy, Community Justice Strategy and Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework (OPI) are under review.
- Approve the establishment of a West Dunbartonshire Community Justice Partnership
- Note the 1xfte Community Justice Co-coordinator will be required to deliver on the implementation and ambitions of West Dunbartonshire Community Justice partnership

3. Background

- 3.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 introduced a range of statutory duties to be implemented at a local level by responsible “named statutory partners”, as indicated in Figure 1, below:

Figure 1: Community Justice Statutory Partners

Named statutory partners	Local Responsible Posts
Each Local Authority	Local Authority Chief Executive
Each Health Board	Chief Executive
Chief constable of Police Scotland	Police Scotland Chief Superintendent
Scottish Fire and Rescue	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Commander
Skills Development Scotland	Skills Development Scotland

	Regional Manager
Integration Joint Board	HSCP Board and Chief Officer
Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS)	SCTS National Manager
Scottish Ministers (represented by Scottish Prison Service)	Scottish Prison Service Governor

3.2 Duties placed on local partners include :

- Ensuring the local Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan meets the required standards and practices including the voices of people within the Justice system, victims of crime and communities;
- Publishing an annual report detailing progress made against each of the Community Justice Outcomes;
- Developing a ‘whole systems approach’ to improving the health, social, welfare, economic and personal outcomes for people who are involved within, or on the edges of, the criminal justice system.
- A concise understanding of the local landscape evidenced by a comprehensive Strategic Needs & Strengths Assessment;
- Reducing/eliminating re-offending by increasing access to a wide range of interventions
- Ensuring a range of needs are assessed at each point of the criminal justice system (noted in Appendix 3 as Justice Improvement Pathways);
- Holding each other to account for delivery of the local plan;
- Sharing resources and budgets;
- Ensuring the involvement of Elected Members.

3.4 The local model for community justice should deliver an extensive change programme centred on increasing prevention of reoffending through improved leadership and collaboration; evidencing and delivering improved outcomes; learning, development and innovation; and workforce development across multi-agency statutory partners.

3.5 The key improvement outcomes for community justice include Health, Addictions, Mental Health, Housing, Adult Education, Financial Welfare, Employment, Education and Training, Recreation , supported community sentencing and reducing offending. Third Sector representation should be confirmed via a Participation Statement that should accompany the local plan for each area.

4. Main Issues

4.1 **Governance & Accountability:** Delivery of community justice duties requires a focussed, strategic programme management approach to scrutinise, ensure appropriate accountability and delivery.

4.2 Within West Dunbartonshire, this duty currently sits in part within the Safer Delivery Improvement Group (DIG) of Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD). In all other areas of Scotland, Community Justice Partnerships have been established, with lines of accountability to Community Planning Partnerships and links to relevant strategic forums including ADP, Public Protection Chief Officer’s groups and HSCP Integrated Joint Boards.

4.3 In December 2021, West Dunbartonshire Community Justice Partners were issued with a Local Improvement Recommendation from Community Justice Scotland to address 3 areas:

- Submission of information to inform the national Community Justice Scotland resource to develop a database for the information of Sheriffs by 31 January 2022. *Completed 7 December 2021.*

- To publish an annual report for 2021. Completed *31 January 2022*.
- Publish a Participation Statement as soon as practicable. *Completed 10 December 2021. (It should be noted the Community Justice documentation had been removed from the website page and were republished to complete this action)*

In December 2021 between Community Justice Scotland Chief Executive and Policy and Improvement Manager with West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership Chief Officer and Head of Service Children's Health Justice and CSWO , it was concluded that West Dunbartonshire continue to proceed with setting up West Dunbartonshire Community Justice Partnership. Community Justice Scotland offered their support to strategic workshops in advance of the partnership being implemented with all partners.

Initially it is proposed the chair role will be West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership Chief Officer, Beth Culshaw. Discussion is ongoing to establish if Police Scotland can assume the Vice-Chair position. It is recognised that Nationally there is a huge variation in chairing arrangement and this can be subject to review within the Partnerships first year.

4.4 Preparatory work is underway and includes:

- Key leads for a West Dunbartonshire Community Justice Partnership Development Group have been identified
- Community Justice Scotland will lead a maximum of 6 development workshops between February and May 2022, to assist local partners to establish the local Community Justice Partnership. The Community Justice Coordinator will support the development and delivery of the workshops
- Mapping exercise to identify areas where community justice activity is underway
- A schedule of dates and membership has now been confirmed

4.5 The West Dunbartonshire Community Justice Annual Outcomes and Activity Report was submitted to Community Justice Scotland in January 2022, this provides a baseline on progress for local community justice activity. The report is attached at Appendix 1.

4.6 **National Drivers**

There is significant community justice activity at a national level, key drivers are:

- Review of the national Justice and Community Justice Strategies and CJ Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework (OPIF) and Guidance (due for publication Spring 2022)
- The establishment of the Scottish Government Recover, Renewal and Transformation Board, further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/justice-vision-priorities-closing-down-report/pages/6/>
- The Community Justice Scotland Activity Report 2020/21 recommendations (due for publication March 2022)
- The proposal for a new National Care Service

4.7 A national Community Justice Scotland event for Chairs of Community Justice Partnerships during September 2020 highlighted:

- rising prison population, including remand and the need to develop community-based alternatives
- increasing capacity for PF Diversion from Prosecution
- backlog in Courts, Summary Court of particular concern
- need to involve Third Sector
- developing local models underpinned by a public health approach to justice
- critical impact of all of the above on Justice Social Work, significant concern around capacity to deliver without enhancing budgets.

4.8 It is recognised that West Dunbartonshire’s community justice arrangements differed from other areas, as referred to above. The ability of partners to contribute to the improvement action plan arising from the inspection of Justice Social Work Services in 2019 and the need to evidence achievement against the national community justice outcomes may therefore be seen as more challenging in West Dunbartonshire. Establishing a local Community Justice Partnership will address these challenges.

4.9 Establishment of a community justice partnership would provide greater visibility, the ability to evidence key deliverables, promote opportunities for joint working and would support CPWD and the Health and Social Care Partnership Board in providing a unified direction, underpinned by clear Terms of Reference to evidence progress towards meeting our joint statutory duties. Analysis of the arrangements in other areas was informed by the [Self-Evaluation for Community Justice, supported by the Care Inspectorate](#). Within current arrangements, West Dunbartonshire is challenged in its ability to evidence achievement against the Quality Indicators.

4.10 Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment (SNSA): Community Justice Scotland has produced detailed guidance and templates to develop a local SNSA to inform local planning and priority setting; with the participation of all partners. It requires a multi-agency approach and will assist partners to develop local priorities. The extensive documentation can be found here: https://communityjustice.scot/reports_and_stats/strategic-needs-and-strengths-assessment-guidance

Ongoing activity is underway to finalise the Justice Social Work data for the local Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment (SNSA) and Custody to Community data for people leaving prison. Other local authority areas have commissioned external support to produce their SNSA, this will be a consideration for the West Dunbartonshire Community Justice Partnership.

4.11 Community Justice Funding: currently, the Scottish Government Justice Division provides £50,000 annually to support community justice activity in each local authority area. This typically funds a community justice co-ordinator post, however for 4 years, a full-time co-ordinator, hosted by West Dunbartonshire, works part time between West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute.

5. People Implications

5.1 None.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 West Dunbartonshire community justice funding of £62,500 includes £12,500 for specific improvements to support Justice Social Work, which is reported within HSCP by the Head of Service, Children’s Health, Care and Justice.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1 Failure to address these significant strategic planning and operational delivery gaps can result in formal improvement action from Scottish Government.
- 7.2 Community Justice arrangements must reflect the work of a range of cross-sector partners to delivery against the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan to reduce the risk of offending by individuals and its impact upon local communities.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1 A refreshed EIA is required.

9. Consultation

- 9.1 The following people were consulted/informed this report: West Dunbartonshire HSCP Chief Officer , Head of Service (Children's Health/Justice Social Work)/Chief Social Work Officer and Justice Social Work Manager. Senior Police Scotland representatives, Community Justice Scotland Chief Executive, other community justice co-ordinators and 2 Governors from Her Majesty's Prison Service.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1 Community justice incorporates multi-disciplinary agencies to deliver a whole systems approach to reduce re-offending in local communities. It encompasses a range of partners, including those represented within CPWD DIGs and more. Current governance and reporting arrangements have limited ability to demonstrate achievement against community justice quality indicators.

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Appendices:

Background Papers:

National Strategy for Community Justice:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-strategy-community-justice/>

National Guidance for Local Partners:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/guidance-local-partners-new-model-community-justice/>

Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-justice-outcomes-performance-improvement-framework/>

Justice in Scotland, Vision and Priorities:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/justice-scotland-vision-priorities/>

Wards Affected: All