

Management Committee

Date: 18th December 2015



Community Justice Redesign: Transition Plan

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Management Committee members with an update regarding the local plans to transfer responsibility for the strategic planning and delivery of community justice from the North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority (NSCJA) to the Community Planning Partnership.

2.0 Recommendations

The Community Planning Management Group of Argyll and Bute is recommended to:

- i) Note the current situation with regard to community justice redesign; and
- ii) Approve the Transition Plan for 2016-2017 (Appendix 1) which requires to be presented to the Scottish Government in January 2016.

3.0 Background

In 2013 the Scottish Government consulted on the future model of community justice in Scotland. The outcome of this consultation was that from 2017-2018 responsibility for local strategic planning and delivery of community justice will transfer from the eight Community Justice Authorities (CJA) to Community Planning Partnerships. The new arrangements use Community Planning Partnerships as the vehicle to bring partner organisations together to plan the delivery of community justice outcomes.

The delivery of the Criminal Justice Social Work service remains accountable to the Health and Social Care Partnership.

Community Justice is defined by the Scottish Government as “the collection of agencies and services in Scotland that individually and in partnership work to manage offenders, prevent offending and reduce reoffending and the harm it causes, to promote social inclusion, citizenship and desistance”. Outcomes for Community Justice will be supported by effective local planning and delivery of services by a range of partners in the public and third sector.

Currently, local criminal justice social work services operate under the Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshire's Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership. This is a formal strategic and operational partnership between Argyll and Bute, West Dunbartonshire

and East Dunbartonshire. They share a single strategic partnership manager, single budget, and deliver common outcomes within a joint planning and performance framework, commissioning strategy and report to a joint committee with delegated powers. These arrangements have been in place since 2002.

In order to ensure as smooth a transition as possible Community Planning Partnerships are required to submit a transition plan setting out how they will manage this process over 2016-2017. The plan has to be submitted by 31st January 2016.

4.0 Main Issues

The issues addressed in the plan follow the requirements set out by the Scottish Government in a key set of questions. The plan focuses on the establishment of links between community justice statutory partners, the Third Sector, service users and communities. The plan also addresses governance and accountability and how most effective use will be made of the transition funding offered to local authorities to support the process.

With regard to establishing links with partners there is a recognition that strong strategic and operational links currently exist in some statutory areas of activity. However it is recognised that there is potential for the new model to extend and strengthen the value of these relationships and to draw upon and benefit from a wider range of contributions and expertise.

In terms of accountability, the reporting arrangements in respect of Criminal Justice Social Work will continue collectively to go to a Joint Committee representing partner local authorities. The constitutional arrangements and membership will be reviewed in light of the new arrangements.

In Argyll and Bute, the broader Community Justice outcomes will be reported to the Community Planning Partnership Management Group at least annually. Specific outcomes and performance will be through Outcome 6: People live in safer and stronger communities.

The funding formula for Criminal Justice Social Work is currently under review with the intention being to apply a revised formula to the grant allocation for 2017-2018. The present formula will be applied to the 2016-2017 grant. It should be noted that the value of the grant in relation to costs has declined over several year which has presented significant difficulties in delivering the statutory Criminal Justice Service.

The transition funding, noted above, is £50,000 per authority per year for three years (subject to the outcome of the spending review). The partnership authorities have pooled their funding in order to derive maximum benefit in terms of resourcing a post to drive matters forward and also to support local partnership working and consultation initiatives.

5.0 Conclusions

From 2017-2018, responsibility for local strategic planning and delivery of community justice will transfer from the eight Community Justice Authorities (CJA) to Community Planning Partnerships.

The delivery of the Criminal Justice Social Work service remains accountable to the Health and Social Care Partnership.

Community Planning Partnerships are required to submit a transition plan setting out how they will manage this process over 2016-2017. The plan has to be submitted by 31st January 2016.

6.0 Implications

Strategic Implications	The transfer of responsibility for community justice will strengthen our local response to Outcome 6: People live in safer and stronger communities. Note: If report does not relate to SOA outcomes please contact cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk for advice.
Consultations, Previous considerations	Preparatory work for the transition is being undertaken between the criminal justice social work partnership and officers from the respective Community Planning Partnerships. The Criminal Justice Partnership Committee are also involved in the development of transitional planning arrangements.
Resources	None arising from this report
Prevention	None arising from this report
Equalities	None arising from this report

Rona Gold, Community Planning Manager
01436 658 862

References

N/A

Appendices

Appendix 1: Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires' Community Justice; Transition Plan 2016-17