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## COMMUNITY JUSTICE CONSULTATION

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This briefing relates to activities which fall under SOA Outcome 6. The activities are due to be completed by March 2017

The briefing is for noting.

### Summary

The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 is accompanied by draft National Strategy, Guidance and Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework, formal launch of these documents is expected November 2016. The legislation includes facilitating the dis-establishment of all Community Justice Authority's and the establishment of a new national body Community Justice Scotland, to be fully operational by April 2017. The role of Community Justice Scotland is defined as providing support and leadership for community justice, working closely with all relevant partners and providing assurance to Scottish Ministers and Local Government Leaders on the delivery of improvement outcomes, with support for improvement as required. The new body will also establish a Hub for Learning and Development to bring enhanced opportunities for innovation.

At a local level, the legislation places a statutory duty on a range of partners to work together to:

- develop, prepare and publish a Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan by March 2017
- involve the third sector, community bodies, communities, victims and their families, the families of people with convictions, people with convictions themselves and any other relevant community bodies involved in community justice services as locally appropriate
- monitor and review progress on an annual basis and report to Community Justice Scotland

The named Statutory Partners are: *Chief Constable of Police Scotland; Health Boards; Integration Joint Boards for Health & Social Care; Local Authorities; Scottish Courts & Tribunals Service; Scottish Fire & Rescue Service; Scottish Ministers (i.e. Scottish Prison Service, Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service); and, Skills Development Scotland*

Within the National Strategy, the Vision for Community Justice in Scotland is defined as:

Scotland is a safer, fairer and more inclusive nation where we:-

- prevent and reduce further offending by addressing its underlying causes; and
- safely and effectively manage and support those who have committed offences to help them reintegrate into the community and realise their potential for the benefit of all citizens

The Priorities/Outcomes are defined as below and are accompanied with a range of actions (attached):

- Improved Community Understanding and Participation
- Strategic Planning and Partnership Working
- Effective Use of Evidence-Based Interventions
- Equal access to Services

Further information is available on [link to reports on meeting page on council website] [link to organisation's website]

### **Key Points for Consideration**

- The new community justice model expects local and national partners to effectively plan together to implement a Whole Systems approach to supporting the prevention of, and desistance from crime, evidenced-based service interventions are expected to be barrier free, with communities more aware and involved. Whilst this is significant review and development work, partners agree it is a welcome opportunity to build on the solid foundations already in existence through joint working practices
- At a strategic level the Community Justice Outcome and Improvement Plan for Argyll & Bute Council will be managed and developed in partnership with both East and West Dunbartonshires', capitalising on the long standing Criminal Justice Partnership arrangements. A Community Justice Transitions Executive Group is established for 2016/2017, with representatives from all Statutory Partners and the Third Sector Interface leads to oversee the development of the Plan, first meeting in September 2016. Formal approval of the Plan will be through Community Planning Management Group, although HSCP and IJB management groups will also have to review and approve
- A Transitions Officer is in post to support the process across the Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires' Partnership
- Initial engagement with local services including Criminal Justice, Housing, ADP, Children and Families, Third Sector Interface and national organisations including Police, Scottish Prison Service, Skills Development Scotland, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal has taken place with all embracing the aspirations of the new model for community justice
- Local briefings and development sessions will take place in Argyll and Bute during the remainder of 2016, with the first planned for Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016 at the Council Chambers. It is expected that key representatives from all Statutory Partners and Third Sector Interface will attend, the purpose of the session is to review what actions are required to move towards the new model and inform the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan. Further sessions will be arranged for Third Sector service providers. The Transitions Officer will attend the Argyll & Bute Strategic Housing Forum on 31 August 2016
- Consultation with people with convictions, victims and families will also be included during 2016, the process and method of this is still being developed. Consultation with communities will be carried out through current CPP processes
- Further progress update/briefing will be provided to the next Area CPG

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