

Integration Joint Board

Date of Meeting: 30 March 2022

Title of Report: National Strategy for Community Justice - Analysis of Responses

Presented by: David Gibson

The IJB is asked to:

- Consider and note the report.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The current model for Community Justice came into operation on 1st April 2017, underpinned by the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, which places duties on a group of statutory partners to engage in community justice planning and to report against a set of nationally determined outcomes.
- 1.2 The Act also established Community Justice Scotland and required Scottish Ministers to produce a National Strategy for Community Justice, an Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework and national guidance.
- 1.3 Section 16 of the Act ensured that Scottish Ministers reviewed the national strategy by 24th November 2021. The targeted consultation was therefore launched in September 2021 and a report detailing the analysis of the responses was published by Scottish Government on 28th February 2022. The results of this indicated that a revised strategy was required. This is now moving to a public consultation.
- 1.4 Argyll and Bute's Community Justice Partnership contributed to the consultation, and the views expressed in the Argyll & Bute's submission mirrored many of the national responses. In addition, our submission led to the Scottish Government acknowledging the need to take cognisance of remote, rural and island communities in the formulation of the revised strategy.
- 1.5 Argyll & Bute Community Justice Partnership await the revised strategy which should be published in Spring 2022, and will ensure that the priorities, vision and outcomes, performance and improvement framework are encompassed in our delivery plan moving forward.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The consultation on the National Strategy for Community Justice, focussed on the Vision, Mission Statement, Priorities and Principles, addressing the following key areas

- Do you think that it would be helpful to shorten and simplify the strategy, to make it more user-friendly?
- Do you think that the strategy should contain more specific and time-limited aims and actions than at present?
- To what extent do you agree or disagree with the current vision and mission statement?
- How useful do you think the current vision and mission statement are at helping partners and communities to work together effectively to drive improvement in community justice?
- Do you think that a renewed community justice strategy needs a focus on, Improved Community Understanding and Participation; Strategic Planning and Partnership Working; Equal Access to Services; Effective Use of Evidence-Based Interventions
- To what extent do you agree or disagree with the current principles?
- How useful do you think the current priorities and improvement actions are at helping partners and communities to work together effectively to drive improvement in community justice
- Thinking about the strategy overall, to what extent has it led to collaboration in the effective and strategic use of resources across the community justice sector?
- Thinking about the strategy overall, to what extent has it achieved its aim of providing a shared vision to help partners and communities to work together effectively to drive improvement in community justice?
- Thinking about the strategy overall, would you say that it has influenced the work of your local area/organisation? Which elements of the strategy do you find most useful/not useful?
- In your view what are the three main community justice priorities over the next 3-5 years?

2.2 The submission from Argyll & Bute's Community Justice Partnership is recognised in the Analysis of Responses Document published and mirrors many of the outcomes of this consultation. Our comments regarding the need to the revised strategy to be cognisant of remote, rural and island communities were recognised.

3. DETAIL OF REPORT

3.1 This report summarises the key outcomes of the national consultation.

- 85% of respondents agreed that the revised strategy should be shortened and simplified to make it more user friendly
- 73% of respondents agreed that the revised strategy should contain more specific and time-limited aims and actions and referred to the need for SMART actions to provide, clarity around what the specific aims and actions are; clarity around roles and responsibilities and ownership of actions, to create more accountability and garner buy-in from partners; action plan with associated timescales for delivery and a mechanism to enable a review of progress; specific aims and actions that are measurable and aid the assessment of progress
- The majority of respondents generally agreed with the current vision and mission statement. In particular some stated that the vision and mission remains relevant, that they largely agree with the focus and ambition of the vision and that it supports the evidence of what works to reduce further offending. Other factors which required consideration are, scope of community justice with regard to prevention; trauma-informed practice; pandemic recovery; resourcing; communities, victims and witnesses/lived experience
- A number of respondents commented on the importance of focussing resource on what is effective and therefore improves outcomes and promotes public trust and confidence in community justice.
- Equal access to services should not equate to equal service delivery and structures across Scotland. The differences between rural and urban areas were highlighted and the fact that local partnerships should be able to agree how to meet local needs and deliver services. Difficulties in enabling equal access to services was recognised as being impacted by the diverse geography of Scotland, including rural, remote and island communities.
- The majority of respondents reflected on the importance of partnership working in community justice and its inclusion in the strategy. Some of the difficulties of improving partnership working that Argyll & Bute highlighted in our submission were included: the cross-sectoral nature and breadth of community justice, and existing structures and strategies that are in place across different sectors; working across remote, rural and island communities; the potential implications of the proposed National Care Service.
- The priorities outlined in the national strategy were helpful at the time the strategy was published, when Community Justice Partnerships were being established and Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plans were being developed, but that some revision and updating is necessary, including

ensuring alignment to the revised Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework.

- The majority of respondents generally agreed with the principles of the Community Justice Strategy, with some stating that they remain helpful, clear, relevant and evidence-based. Further clarity in relation to implementation of the principles is needed. Including the roles and responsibilities of partners and the funding and resources needed for partners to follow the principles. Again the complexities of implementation within remote, rural and island communities were acknowledged.
- Respondents noted the strategy was useful in creating a clear vision, but that it had not been successful in ensuring collaboration. It was noted that partnership and collaboration was inconsistent across Scotland.

4. RELEVANT DATA AND INDICATORS

The Community Justice Partnership is awaiting the publication of the revised Outcomes, Performance and Improvement framework

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Argyll & Bute's Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan will be updated once the Revised National Strategy is published, with appropriate links to national and local strategic plans.

6. GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Guidance: Please ensure that you have followed the appropriate governance structure taking consideration of the following areas prior to submitting your paper.

6.1 Financial Impact

No financial impact at present – will be reviewed on publication of revised national strategy.

6.2 Staff Governance

No staffing issues have been identified at this time – will be reviewed on publication of revised national strategy.

6.3 Clinical Governance

No issues identified at this time – will be reviewed on publication of revised national strategy.

7. PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY

Guidance: Please provide details of the consultation undertaken with professional leadership and the outcome of discussions.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The current strategy takes a general approach to populations however does not reflect the needs of delivering to remote, rural and island communities. Cognisance should be given to the Islands Act and the requirement for an Island Community Impact Assessment to ensure national policy and initiatives do not adversely affect those communities.

9. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES COMPLIANCE

Data compliance will be explored once the revised National Strategy is published.

10. RISK ASSESSMENT

Once the revised national strategy is published, any risks associated with the implementation will be addressed through the Community Justice Partnership.

11. PUBLIC & USER INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT

At this stage no public or user involvement is required but will be explored once the revised strategy is published.

12. CONCLUSIONS

The IJB is asked to note the report, and an update can be provided once the revised National Strategy for Community Justice is published.

13. DIRECTIONS

Directions required to Council, NHS Board or both.	Directions to:	tick
	No Directions required	x
	Argyll & Bute Council	
	NHS Highland Health Board	
	Argyll & Bute Council and NHS Highland Health Board	

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