

Agenda Item 5a. Community Justice Reform

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 By 2016-17, responsibility for local strategic planning and delivery of community justice will transfer from Scotland's eight Community Justice Authorities (CJAs) to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs). The detail of these arrangements is currently under consultation by the Scottish Government, with an announcement on this anticipated in autumn 2015. However it is clear that local arrangements for the strategic planning and delivery of community justice in each area will be for local CPPs to determine.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that the CPP Management Committee:
- 2.1 Note the response submitted on behalf of the CPP to the short survey from COSLA and Scottish Government, deadline 8 August 2014.
- 2.2 Agree the lead officer for the CPP is Louise Long, supported by the Community Planning Manager as outlined in 'Next Steps' paragraph 3.11.

3.0 DETAILS

3.1 Community Justice

- Community Justice is the term given to the whole approach to reducing reoffending. It is concerned with improving the lives of people through prevention activities and services to reduce instances of reoffending. This encourages the involvement of not only social work but other agencies such as Housing, DWP, Police and the Third Sector.
- 3.2 Within Argyll and Bute Council area Community Justice is currently the core responsibility of a criminal justice social work team, usually consisting of a social worker and an assistant, in every town based around the courts and in Rothesay where there used to be a court. Working with sex offenders is included within Community Justice and often the work is time and resource intensive. The main partners include Housing and Homelessness, Police, mental health and addictions workers and third sector local drug and alcohol agencies.
- 3.3 There are also positive relationships with community councils who can often bring forward ideas for unpaid work by offenders (layby cleaning etc). Argyll and Bute has the second lowest reconviction rate in Scotland.
- 3.4 Currently Community Justice in Argyll and Bute operates under the Argyll, Bute and

Dunbartonshire's Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership - a formal arrangement between this council, East Dunbartonshire Council and West Dunbartonshire Council. The Partnership sits under one of eight Community Justice Authorities.

3.5 Community Justice Authorities (CJA's)

Eight Community Justice Authorities were set up across Scotland to have responsibility for local strategic planning and delivery of Community Justice. The Government's consultation in 2013 on a future model for Community Justice in Scotland concluded that CJAs should be disbanded and that it be for Community Planning Partnerships to determine the local delivery of Community Justice.

3.6 Reform of Community Justice and role of CPP

The current CJA's are to work with CPPs to discuss transfer of some of the key responsibilities (including reporting back to a national body, distributing grant, agreeing a strategic plan and partnership arrangements and bringing other partners round the table including the third sector).

3.7 The deadline for this to "transfer" to CPPs is end March 2016.

3.8 This is part of a consultation on Community Justice reform which looks also at establishment of a single national body. The council has submitted a response to this consultation and the results are expected in Autumn 2014.

3.9 As part of preparatory work for the transition, the Scottish Government and COSLA have established a 'Community Justice CPP transitions' working group. This has representation from CJAs and CPPs. The working group is carrying out a short survey of all 32 CPPs to inform its work programme. The completed survey for Argyll and Bute CPP is appended to this report. The deadline for returns was 8 August therefore a submission was made following a meeting of the Community Planning Manager and the Community Justice Manager. This was submitted by the Chair of the CPP.

3.10 Next Steps

The Partnership needs to consider the outcome of the consultation following its publication in Autumn 2014. There may well be implications for the distribution of the grant for Community Justice to sit with the CPP in future and this will need to be fully considered.

3.11 There is a need for the Partnership to identify a lead officer for the CPP that will take any work on this forward. This needs to be someone who can take all the actions forward, arrange and attend all necessary meetings and engage fully with the Partnership and other bodies to see through the change. It is recommended that the appropriate lead person is Louise Long, Head of Children and Families and support is provided by the Community Planning Manager.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The structures through which the planning and delivery of reducing reoffending in Scotland are currently managed is subject to change and will involve CPP's taking a role in shaping the local delivery of Community Justice post March 2016.

4.2 A working group has been established at a national level involving Scottish Government, COSLA, CPP's and Community Justice Authorities to support the upcoming changes. To inform their workplan CPP's are invited to complete a survey of short questions on the reform of Community Justice. The partnership is asked to note the CPP's response.

4.3 Work on this area of public sector reform is ongoing and the CPP is required to identify a lead person through which they will be kept informed of developments.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Argyll and Bute CPP Response – A Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland – Question Set for CPPs

Appendix A: Argyll and Bute CPP Response

A Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland – Question Set for CPPs

By 2016-17, responsibility for local strategic planning and delivery of community justice will transfer from Scotland's eight Community Justice Authorities (CJAs) to local Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs). CJAs will be disestablished. A national body (currently referred to as 'Community Justice Improvement Scotland') will be created with an assurance and improvement function.

The detail of these arrangements is currently under consultation by the Scottish Government,¹ with an announcement on this anticipated in the Autumn. However it is clear that local arrangements for the strategic planning and delivery of community justice in each area will be for local CPPs to determine.

As part of preparatory work for this transition, the Scottish Government and Cosla have established a 'Community Justice CPP transitions' working group as part of the Reducing Reoffending Programme 2. This also has representation from CJAs and CPPs.²

The working group is carrying out a short survey of all 32 CPPs to inform its work programme. This aims to identify:

- Where CPPs currently feel they are in terms of preparing for the community justice transition and implementation of the new arrangements from 2016-17.
- What support and resources CPPs feel they need in the short, medium and long term to assist with the transition and implementation.

We would be grateful if you could complete the attached survey by FRIDAY 8 AUGUST 2014 and return it to communityplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk .

The survey includes 7 questions.

You will not be asked to identify your CPP – this is intended only to give an overview of CPPs' current position. We are seeking informal views at an officer level only, so do not anticipate that your response would require to be signed off formally by your CPP governance structures.

Many thanks for your assistance.

If you have any queries about this survey, please contact (on behalf of the Community Justice CPP transitions working group):

Morna Rae, Community Planning Team Leader, North Ayrshire Council
tel 01294 324177, email mrae@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/04/7616>

² South West Scotland and North Strathclyde CJAs; Aberdeenshire, North Ayrshire and Perth and Kinross CPPs.

1. How would you describe your CPP's current level of awareness of the responsibilities for strategic planning and delivery of community justice which will transfer from 2016-17?

(please circle one option between 1 and 4 for each level of the CPP)

	Not at all aware	Slightly aware	Reasonably aware	Very aware
Amongst CPP team/ officers	1	2	3	4
Amongst CPP groups (EXCL. CPP Board)	1	2	3	4
At CPP Board level or equivalent	1	2	3	4

2. Has there been any consideration to date (in the form of reports, presentations or discussion) in your CPP about the redesign of community justice as it applies to CPPs?

(please tick all that apply)

No	X
Yes – Amongst CPP team/ officers	X
Yes – Within CPP groups (EXCLUDING CPP Board)	X
Yes – With CPP Board or equivalent	X
Yes – Other <i>(please specify)</i>	Council responded to the consultation in July 2014. This was taken to Full Council end June.

3. Has a lead officer been identified for your CPP to plan and oversee the transition of community justice responsibilities to CPPs?

(please tick one option)

No	X
Yes – Local Authority lead <i>(please specify which service)</i>	
Yes – Other Partner lead <i>(please specify which organisation)</i>	

4. What is your CPP's current thinking in terms of where these new responsibilities will be placed within your CPP governance arrangements?

(please tick one option)

Haven't thought about this yet	X
Within Community Safety Partnership or equivalent	
Within a new 'Community Justice Partnership' or equivalent	
Within the Health and Social Care Partnership or equivalent	
Within the Alcohol and Drug Partnership or equivalent	
Within another governance arrangement – please specify	

5. Do you currently anticipate any resourcing implications for your CPP to take on these new responsibilities? *(please tick one option)*

<i>Yes – but we can meet this from our existing resources</i>	
<i>Yes – and we could not meet this within our existing resources</i>	X
<i>No</i>	
<i>Haven't thought about this yet</i>	

6. What do you feel might be some of the main challenges and opportunities arising from the transition to the new community justice arrangements?

(please write as many or as few as you wish)

Challenges	Opportunities
<p>This is an unknown area for CPPs therefore the timescale, learning and development of a workable solution is challenging and especially with current resources.</p> <p>The responsibilities coming to CPPs are outwith regular functioning of the current CPPs and therefore will have implications for governance of CPPs.</p> <p>How does this fit with the Integration of Social Care and Health?</p> <p>The functioning of the national body could be a burden on the CPP and undermine actions.</p>	<p>How does this fit with the Integration of Social Care and Health?</p> <p>Potential to engage and involve more partners in the delivery of Community Justice.</p> <p>Stronger platform through which there can be more third sector involvement.</p> <p>Can better develop local solutions for local circumstances which has never been done before.</p>

7. Which of the following would assist your CPP with the transition to the new community justice arrangements?

(please tick all that apply)

	<i>By when?</i>			
	<i>By Sept 2014</i>	<i>By Mar 2015</i>	<i>By Sept 2015</i>	<i>By Mar 2015</i>
<i>Regular meetings between your CPP officers and your local CJA officers</i>	X			
<i>Regular agenda items at CPP meetings</i>	X			
<i>Involvement of your CPP officers in local CJA governance arrangements</i>		x		
<i>Formal guidance from the Scottish Govt/ Cosla</i>	X			
<i>A 'Community Justice Toolkit' outlining for example key legislative, policy and operational responsibilities; local and national contacts; tools and resources; and good practice</i>			X	

<i>Dedicated transitional/ development support</i>	<i>X (yes if this was funded)</i>			
<i>Information events and workshops in your local CJA area</i>		<i>x</i>		
<i>Information events and workshops at a national level</i>	<i>x</i>			
<i>A workplan or schedule of key tasks to be completed within the transition along with milestones and deadlines</i>	<i>X</i>			
<i>Anything else? Please specify</i> <i>There is a need for milestones to state key tasks that the Government is going to do/ when it is going to make decisions before there is a set project plan laid out for local authorities and their partners to allow local organisations to make their own plan. Need to careful that this is not being micromanaged by Government.</i>	<i>X</i>			

Many thanks for your assistance. Please return by FRIDAY 8 AUGUST 2014 to: communityplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.