

**DRAFT MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE
LOTHIAN AND BORDERS COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY**

Newbattle Abbey College, Dalkeith
Thursday 20th August 2015

Present: Councillor Donald Grant (ELC) (**Chair**), Councillor Tony Boyle (WLC),
Councillor Jim Bryant (MLC)

In Attendance: Fiona Young (Chief Officer), Jim Dustan (SPS), Craig Fraser (Finance Officer),
Harry Robertson (CEC), John Fyfe (SBC), Margaret Brewer (MLC), Fiona
Duncan (ELC), Tim Ward (WLC), Steve Cairns (CJA), Cristina Ayala (CJA),
Liz McAnish (Police Scotland) Andrea McLachlan (CJA), Erica Guiney (CJA),
Liz Cooper (SPS), Arlene A Stuart (Scottish Government), Allister Perston
(Audit Scotland), Rosie Kendall (MLC), Paolo Mazzoncini (Sacro), Julie
Murray (NHS Borders), Graeme Jones (SBC), Fiona Allan (Families Outside)

Presenting: Jessie Morrison (Soroptomist), Pat Black (Soroptomist), Charlie Allanson-Oddy
(Veterans First Point)

Apologies: Councillor Catherine Johnstone (MLC), Councillor Donald Moffat (SBC),
Councillor Ricky Henderson (ELC), Angus MacInnes (Police Scotland), Colin
Beck (CEC), Gary Todd (CEC), Alasdair Mathers (MLC), Frances Jamieson
(Scottish Government), Laura Baxter (Victim Support Scotland)

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Councillor Jim Bryant in place of Councillor Johnstone, Charlie Allanson-Oddy from Veterans First Point, Pat Black and Jessie Morrison from Soroptomist International, who were presenting to the meeting and Arlene A Stuart from Scottish Government.

Presentation by Veterans First Point

Veterans First Point was set up in 2009 after an advisory group which came together in 2007 to discuss the needs of veterans. There have been over 1100 unique referrals to date. The team consists of staff with experience of the military and professionals with extensive experience of working with welfare and mental health needs of veterans and their families.

The service started with funding from the Ministry of Defence and is now largely funded by Scottish Government with a small amount of funding from NHS Lothian.

There is an open referral system for the service and they work with a range of organisations and on-site ‘clinics’ from Advise Scotland, Veterans UK, EHAP and a nurse practitioner. There are also group and individual activities.

The clinical team comprises of a Consultant Psychiatrist, a Consultant Psychological Therapist and a Clinical Psychologist. The veterans have complex and overlapping needs,

with 83 % of people having mental health concerns and 73% with welfare and wellbeing concerns.

There is currently an in-reach programme at HMP Edinburgh and HMP Addiewell, with referrals coming through the link centre. They are working to raise awareness of specialist veteran housing that can be accessed straight from prison, and employment help from Poppy Scotland. The service aims to provide a balance to help all of the issues affecting veterans.

Ms McAnish asked if there was a referral system for Police Scotland. Mr Allanson-Oddy noted that some referrals were made through the custody suite, however he is keen to speak to the veterans champion for Police Scotland.

The Chief Officer asked what was the current caseload of the service. Mr Allanson-Oddy noted that they are not currently working at capacity, so there is no waiting list.

There is discussion ongoing with City Of Edinburgh to make better use of the service, as a CPO element for example.

The Chair asked if there was any analysis of the reluctance for prisoners to admit to being veterans. Mr Allanson-Oddy noted it had not been studied but could sometimes be due to shame or not defining themselves on their past.

The Chair thanked Mr Allanson-Oddy for his presentation.

Presentation by Soroptomist International

Soroptomist is an international organisation, with branches in 120 countries across the world, which focuses on grass roots work and has a UN consultant status. They are known for their work as community activists and focus on working with women and girls.

A report on reducing women's imprisonment was developed across the UK to look at ways in which women struggle to stay out of the criminal justice system. The Soroptomists worked with the Prison Reform Trust on behalf of the UK Government to fill the gaps in knowledge on women offenders. They developed an action pack to develop research, for consistency and accuracy across the UK.

Scotland came out of the report quite well compared to some of the other countries. The key findings from the UK report showed that leadership is needed to bridge the disconnect between policy and implementation. Gender-specific approaches are the exception, most focus is on men. There is also uncertainty of funding for services working with women.

The key themes emerging showed an over-use of remand leading to unnecessary imprisonment of women, and that sentencing policy and practice are not conducive to reducing women's imprisonment. There is also a detrimental impact of imprisonment on the women and their families. Although there is support for the community justice centre model, it is tempered by concerns regarding future funding and sustainability.

In Scotland Soroptomists continue to raise awareness of women's imprisonment and lobby local authorities and the Scottish Government. They have also been involved in the consultation on the future of the female custodial estate.

The Chair thanked the Soroptomists for their interesting presentation.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTE

The Chair advised that the draft minute of the previous meeting of May 2015 had been circulated for approval. No amendments were put forward therefore the Chair moved that this Minute be accepted as the approved Minute from this meeting and as such be posted on the CJA website.

Decision

The Members agreed to:

1. Approve the Minute and for it to be added to the CJA website.

3.1 Note of the previous Learning and Innovation Workshop

The Chief Officer noted that the previous workshop focused on the framework for families affected by the criminal justice system. Ms Allan then gave an update on the framework.

The family outcome group has representatives from all parts of the justice system. They started the consultation process for the framework in August 2013. The consultation process found that there needed to be a broad definition of family and a clear focus on the needs of the family rather than the accused/offender. The workshop on 21st May was the culmination of the work. There were round table discussions at the event and challenges around implementation were raised, but the consensus was that the framework is positive.

The other CJA's have agreed to promote the document at a national level.

Decision

The Members agreed to:

1. Rebrand the framework as a national framework and disseminate it widely.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 All submissions for the Annual Report have been received.

4.2 The Model publication scheme has been completed and is available on the CJA website.

4.3 The transition funding has been allocated.

5. CJA GOVERNANCE, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE (Priorities and Statutory Functions)

5.1 Annual Report for 2014-15 for approval

The Annual Report for 2014-15 has been circulated for approval. The Chief Officer wished to note credit to the previous Chief Officer for the work achieved in the year, as much of it was under his leadership.

Decision

The Members agreed to:

1. Approve the Annual Report to be submitted to Scottish Government.

5.2 Performance Report

The safer lives figures for 2014-15 show a slight decrease on the previous year. The percentage of court orders successfully completed is 72.3%. And the cases received by COPFs within 28 days from Police and cases taken and implemented within the agreed target time are both above the national average.

Decision

The Members agreed to:

1. Note the content of the report.

5.3 Transition Plan 2015-17 for Approval

The Chief Officer informed the meeting that the transition plan brings together an agreed plan for transition. Internal Audit suggested that we bring all elements of our transition planning together in a single transition plan. It contains how we propose to handle ourselves going forward, fulfilling our statutory duties as usual until the disestablishment along with supporting CPP's. The document has also been produced a quarter earlier than requested by Internal Audit.

The Chair congratulated the team on producing the document early.

Decision

The Members agreed to:

1. Approve the Transition Plan.

5.4 Redesign Update

(a) Response to the Community Justice (Scotland) Bill, first stage

The submission by Lothian & Borders CJA had been sent to Scottish Government.

(b) Redesign highlight report

Ms Stuart updated on where we are in the redesign process. The Bill was introduced on 7th May 2015, and the call for evidence closed on 12th August. The Bill is only part of the picture. The need for more communication was highlighted, and a policy document is currently in development. There have been questions as to why Community Planning Partnerships are not named in the Bill. Although Scottish Government expect that CPP's will take the lead, they are not statutory bodies so are not named.

There have also been calls for more recognition of the third sector. Commissioning is not in the Bill. Not all commissioning will be done by Community Justice Scotland, but they will lead on developing a strategic approach to commissioning.

There will be consultation events held around Scotland supported by CJA's in relation to the National strategies for community justice. There has also been transitional funding of £1.6 million made available for this year. It is hoped that the same can be made available for next year and the year after. A national event will also be held to support transition, and the CJA have been asked to cover transition in their action plans. The Scottish Government encourage people to support each other and share good practice during the transition period.

The Chair asked how health and social care integration boards link in to the transition. Ms Stuart noted that they have deliberately been made a statutory partner and will be required to contribute like other partners. The community justice department have linked in at a policy and legislative level with policy colleagues in integration care.

Councillor Boyle commented on concerns at the lack of reference to prevention and early intervention. Ms Stuart noted that prevention is difficult to define in legislative terms. It will be mentioned in the outcomes and national strategy.

The Chair thanked Ms Stuart for her contribution.

5.5 Lothian & Borders CJA equalities report

The equalities progress report is now on the CJA website and is submitted to the board for information.

Decision

The Members agreed to:

1. Note the content of the report.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Annual Accounts 2014-15

The 2014-15 statement is currently with the auditors and is showing a small underspend. The first quarter of 2015-16 is showing a £63,000 overspend. Ms Brewer noted that Midlothian is showing a large overspend due an expected pay rise.

Decision

The Members agreed to:

1. Note the content of the report.

6.2 Audit Scotland Update

Mr Perston referred to the letter of adequacy produced by the internal audit service at Audit Scotland. It checks for professional standards and reliance on work produced, to ensure Audit Scotland are reliable as auditors for the CJA.

Audit Scotland will be looking at the transition plan as part of the Annual Audit.

7. POLICY ROUND UP

7.1. Youth Justice Strategy and WSA evaluation

The Youth Justice Strategy was published in 2015. The document sets out plans for ensuring effective integration of youth justice as a priority area into children's services. There will be a strategic focus on supporting workforce development and encouraging a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

There will also be the establishment of a youth justice improvement board.

The Whole System Approach for young people evaluation found improvements in partnership working and information sharing. However 'buy in' to WSA policy cannot be assumed and ongoing work is required to sustain WSA values across agencies.

7.2. Announcement of the future direction for women in the criminal justice system

Under plans unveiled by the Secretary for Justice, a new small national prison with eighty places will be created alongside five smaller community based custodial units each accommodating up to twenty women across the country.

There will also be more use of community based alternatives to short term prison sentences. Ministers also plan to consult shortly on proposals to further strengthen the presumption against short term sentences.

8. AOB

The Chair noted that this was Steve Cairns last meeting with the CJA and thanked him on behalf of members for his work over the past two years.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Newbattle Abbey College, Dalkeith, on Thursday 19th November 2015.