

Board Members, Partners and Stakeholders,

Please find attached a letter from the Cabinet Secretary highlighting the next stage in reform of community justice.

The letter confirms the winding up of the 8 CJAs in 2016/17 and sets a direction of travel for community justice as a national / local model, placing community planning at the heart of reducing reoffending.

Please note that this option - which is to be further consulted upon - is different from the fully devolved model that was supported by the CJA board in the original consultation.

The existing statutory framework is therefore likely to remain in place until handover to the new national / local arrangements in 2016/17. In keeping with the decision of the CJA Board in November 2013, the CJA will continue to effectively discharge its statutory, regulatory and partnership obligations until then and will play a full and active part in the handover to the new arrangements although we will now need to begin discussions with partners around the things we will need to stop doing, start doing and keep doing towards 2016/17.

The CJA team will also maintain open communications with stakeholders and will, of course, share any update received on the next stages in the consultation process.

I am very much looking forward to our ongoing work with criminal justice and community planning partners and stakeholders over the next 3 years or so to continue to reduce reoffending.

I am also looking forward to further collaboration with Community Planning Partnerships in support of a new and exciting era for the community justice system.

Please do not hesitate to come back to me or Rob Strachan, Chief Officer, if you have any questions.

Best wishes,
Cllr C Johnstone
Convenor
Lothian and Borders CJA