



Orkney Community Justice Partnership

Minutes of the Community Justice Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 27 March 2024 from 11:00-13:00 hybrid via Microsoft Teams and OIC Bunker.

Present

Stephen Brown (SB)	Orkney Health and Care (Chair)
Sharon-Ann Paget (SP)	Orkney Health and Care – Service Manager PP
Matthew Webb (MMW)	Orkney Health and Care (Minutes)
Scott McLellan (SM)	Scottish Prison Services
Amanda Spence (AS)	Skills Development Scotland – Team Leader
Callan Curtis (CC)	Orkney Health and Care
Lindsay Hall (LH)	Councillor
Karen McEwan (KM)	Families Outside – Regional Lead
Rebecca Scott (RS)	Relationship Scotland – Alcohol/Drug Support
Kerry Spence (KS)	CLD, Employability
Ann Clark (AC)	Right There (formerly Y People)
Hannah Casey (HC)	NHS Orkney Public Health Manager
Tamsin Bailey (TB)	Relationship Scotland – Orkney – Service Director
Thomas Love (TL)	Victim Support Scotland
Tony McLaughlin (TM)	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Those in bold were **In Person** attendees, the remainder were online.

Apologies were received or assumed from:

Zelda Bradley (ZB)	Orkney Rape & Sexual Assaults Service - ORSAS
Diane Young	NHS Orkney Mental Health Team
David Hall (DH)	Inspector - Police Scotland
Michelle Ward (MW)	Women's Aid Orkney
Frances Troup (FT)	Head of Service - Housing - OIC
Jo Muir (JM)	Social Security Scotland

1. Welcome / Apologies (Stephen Brown)

The Chair, Stephen Brown (SB) welcomed members.

2. Accuracy of Minutes held 08-09-23 (Stephen Brown)

The Minutes were accepted as accurate and approved.

SB asked if there was anything in the last three months that have gone really well within any of the services.

Callan Curtis (CC) – There is a good movement on Trauma Informed Training for Practitioners in NHS, Third Sector and OIC. We have worked closely with NHS Orkney to identify the decider 32 life skills as a training course for are people in amongst the community. We have 2 licenses for 80 spaces; all these spaces are gone. Alongside this we have Becan House, Trama Informed Practice on the developing brain which should help some of the younger cohorts of these groups. There is also good to go skills, which is Trauma Informed Practice skills that are going in Primary Schools that will support the children going through difficult periods in primary years and secondary years.

Scott McLellan (SM) – SPS is now in a position to offer people from Orkney and Shetland to a £200 supplement for visiting family members that are in custody. This will be provided twice a year, Assisted Prison Visit Scheme, this will be published and made widely known at the end of this month. This has been a huge piece of work; the numbers will be small for this scheme however significant support.

Cllr Lindsay Hall (LH) – Added that Relationship Scotland – Orkney have started rolling out Drugs and Alcohol programs which has filled a huge gap, this is very important following the demise of OACAS. When LH was an UPW supervisor, drugs and alcohol were a big part of low-level crime in Orkney. A programme to tackle what problem will always be welcome. Tamsin Bailey (TB) – Thanked Lindsay for his kind remarks, we do offer counselling for people who are struggling with Drug or Alcohol addictions and also offer support to their family members. TB is delighted to introduce Rebecca Scott (RS) to the team and welcomed her to the Partnership. Offer from TB if RS can assist with addiction support in any way then please get in touch.

Matt Webb (MW) – There is agenda items further in the meeting, but it is worth recognising that Families Outside have done some excellent work recently. Which has been publicised, more detail in the update below. The Prison Release Pathway has moved on at a pace, thanks to SM colleagues in terms of we now have a good arrangement with Grampian and Inverness prisons. There is also some recent activity which Sharon Paget (SP) and MW are looking into in relation to the Caledonian Program, potentially being easier to deliver although we are still in the early stages, a positive story if the funding is sufficient.

Ann Clark (AC) – The PLACE (Preventing, Learning from & Addressing Child Exploitation) meetings have begun which are based around Criminal and Sexual Exploitation of Young People. These are underway, happening every month and have been very beneficial.

The Chair was keen that we keen that these updates of positive activity were captured in the annual returns to Community Justice Scotland and Integrated Joint Board annual performance report.

3. Action Tracker (Matthew Webb)

MW – The CJOIP is an agenda item which will be covered later in the meeting.

These are the ones that are still open:

We had the local media reporting concerns, which is also being discussed at COG and several other groups/partnerships. MW wanted to confirm with the group if we could close this action off or keep it on until there is an update from COG. SB agreed that this is still an issue, through the Chief Officers Group (COG) they are looking to set up a Sub-Group with a specific remit to looking at engagement and communication, as part of the process they will be looking at the membership of this group, this will involve Comms, NHS and OIC. They are also going to extend invites to colleagues at Radio Orkney and The Orcadian. This should help widen their understanding of the sensitivities around this. SB initial reaction would be to remove it from this action tracker because it is sitting elsewhere and will be addressed.

4. Inputs – Restorative Justice Update - Shetland

The presentation for this morning has been cancelled due to conflicting meetings. This will roll onto the next meeting.

5. Service Updates from Partner Agencies

Victim Support Scotland

Stats and Update for Orkney Community Justice Partnership (for meeting held 27.03.24)

For the **Witness Service**, we've had 48 service engagements since the beginning of April 23. We continue to have a presence at Court whenever there are civilian witnesses cited, whether they have been referred to us or not. As well as supporting in local cases, we have also supported in a number of High Court cases where witnesses have given their evidence by video-link from the local Court.

For the **Victim Service**, we've had 12 service engagements since the beginning of April. Although we are still doing the bulk of our day-to-day support by telephone and email, we have also recommenced face-to-face support.

We have a new locality manager for Highlands & Islands (for the first time in over a year). He visited the service earlier in March and met with several partners (in particular the Court and Procurator Fiscal services). Our CEO was also interviewed on Radio Orkney a few weeks back.

We're anticipating some challenges this year due to the fact that our Shetland staff member and volunteer are leaving this month, and it is likely to fall to the Orkney service to provide services there.

ORSAS

Report for OCJP 27/03/24 from Orkney Rape & Sexual Assault Service – ORSAS

ORSAS have supported 77 people since the beginning of April, 66 survivors and 11 family and friends and professionals. These numbers will increase before the end of March.

6 cases are active in sexual crime advocacy caseload with long term support. New referrals are offered up to 3 intake appointments for risk assessment, signposting and resourcing before going on a waiting list for emotional support. There is no waiting list for sexual crime advocacy for those engaged with police and the court system.

Our prevention worker has delivered 130 prevention sessions to over 700 students, pupils and young people in college, school, and youth settings across Orkney on the topics of consent, power, impact of sexual violence and pornography. She has also delivered training to staff at KGS and Orkney College UHI on the ESAS and ESCU projects.

<https://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk/prevention/>

To celebrate International Women's Day and Women's History Month ORSAS collaborated with The New Phoenix Cinema putting on free films for different age groups so that people could access entertainment despite the cost-of-living crisis.

From the 25th of March there is a new Information Sharing Agreement between Police Scotland, Rape Crisis Scotland and all local centres as part of our joint referral process. All ORSAS emails are encrypted end to end.

Introduction of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 from 1st April .

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/hate-crime/>

How you can report Hate Crime <https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/reporting-hate-crime/>

The ORSAS Equality Hub and RSO's Offices at Kirkwall Travel Centre are registered Hate Crime Reporting Centres

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/reporting-hate-crime/third-party-reporting-centres/>

Scottish Prisons Service

SM – We are working towards the Bail Release Act; this will be hugely impactful across the justice sector. We are working on our emergency release proposals, this morning in Scotland the prison has 8,029 people in prison, which is over capacity, with most of our prisons are overcrowded now. The new legislation gives us three options for emergency release. Most of the prisons where it is becoming a daily challenge to keep prisoners separate from each other e.g. keeping sex offenders away from general population. Emergency release will allow us to release people urgently, by making a request to the Minister. Although this is not in place, yet the Bill has been passed and will provide the contingency option should it be required in future. Furthermore, work is underway to avoid anyone being liberated on a Friday, with it being brought forward a day to a Thursday. Voluntary Throughcare changes will see SPS working with Remand prisoners on release and release planning so there should be more activity in this area going forward. Additionally, there will be victim notification issues to consider. Hugely transformative for the penal system.

MW – Around two months ago we re-signed our Information Sharing Agreement with Scottish Prison Service, we had signed the agreement back in 2020 shortly after they changed and amended it to allow that information about someone being released to be onward shared by the Local Authority. The idea being when someone has been released from a prison sentence, housing, medical arrangements, through care support and local support from third sector are all crucial in trying to get that person a stable return to their own community. What the new Sharing Agreement allows us to do is to share that information with a third party, we then take responsibility for that information to make sure it doesn't go out into the community. This gives us more flexibility to support prisoners being released back to Orkney.

Families Outside

KM – Currently supporting two families from Orkney, mainly telephone support. However, one family member has been down in Inverness, so we have been able to do face-to face contact with them. Which is positive as this is rare for Orkney clients. After the training that was delivered by Kirsten Law, there are another two or three families possibly looking for support.

Right There

AC advised that Right There has started a new programme called ROUTES, which supports 12 – 26 years olds, who are affected by a family members drug and or alcohol use. It is now up and running and based in an office at 18 Queen Street, Kirkwall near Business Gateway. 12 referrals received so far, which dovetails into the CORRA funding work to support family members with their own drugs use. **Ann said she would email an update over, has this been received?**

6. Appropriate Adult Service

Callan Curtis – Updated provided in relation not the transition from Voluntary to Statutory services in Orkney and the recruitment of an additional 6 new Appropriate Adults (AAs. Training has been arranged for this.

Nationally there has been recognition that the number of calls outs for Appropriate Adults have dropped significantly in some areas. It is not a consistent picture across Scotland with some areas returning to pre-pandemic levels whilst others are seeing little increase. An examination is taking place to see what can be done about this and locally we are in discussion with police to promote the service.

In this year's Outcome Activity Report, which will be released shortly, there is recognition about the Appropriate Adults service and the significant changes which have taken place across Scotland. MW – Also asked the group to share this service in any way they can help raise awareness for the Appropriate Adults.

7. Self-Evaluation

The Chair, (SB) was keen that the Partnership met and considered the Quality Improvement Framework from The Care Inspectorate following on from the input provided by Neil Gentleman (NG) at the previous partnership meeting. MMW

provided a summary of the input and reminded the group of the indicators. There was an offer from NG to assist the partnership in taking this forward once we identify the areas of interest. The Chair suggested that our focus may be best placed on Key processes, service development or the impact on people.

LH - is looking at section 5, the delivery of key processes, there is a lot in this section that could be done. Particularly 5.3 and 5.4, Planning and providing effective interventions and involving people accused or convicted of offences, and people affected by crime. LH found in his previous position that the people who came to community service (Now CPO) was a very effective way of turning people's lives around.

MW - agrees that the key processes was an area that he wanted to focus on. Being in a small community there is a limited resource of support and services available. This is an area that we can consider to try and access these supports for the people who need this. This comes under section 7, Management and Support of staff.

CC - Agreed that 5.3 and 5.4 was a good point to start focusing on. CC question is once we do this what would be next? If we start this what will this allow us to build onto? If we focus on Section 5, the delivery of key processes, and we have a good understanding of everything. Do we then want to move into the measuring the impact of people and staff in the communities, as a starting point from there. Then to build on that and have an organised strategic process or a flow as to how we go through the framework. CC agreed that the delivery of the key processes is the right place to start, then impact on people in section 2 would be next then moving onto section 9. With the framework we need to find a flow and if we start here where do we go next, what does that build on and how to we evidence that.

TB – was in agreement with CC, the other area that would be a good focus is section 2 and looking at what is happening across the partnership. There is a certain amount happening, but we know that there is more that we can do in partnership with Families Outside and other services and the Trauma Informed Practice that CC is leading on. This is something that could also fit in that box. The flow that CC was describing this could link into leadership and the approach we want to take across the partnership in term of being Trauma Informed in the way we approach these issues.

The Chair proposed on that basis we have some consensus the delivery of key processes is the place to start and there are four indicators within that. My view would be if we are going to do that, I would suggest that we take all four and use that as our starting point. It seems clear from the conversation that the second indicator which is around the impact on people would be the next place to go after. My view after that is following CC's logic of how we order these but what I would suggest is if we can agree 5 being the starting point, 2 being next on the agenda and then once that work has been done and we see the outputs we will then review where next.

Action: MMW proposed to arrange a meeting with Neil Gentleman, himself and CC as an advisor, to take what we have discussed today and make sure we are on the right lines. Chair proposed that as a Partnership we would look at Point 5 first, namely delivery of key processes (5.1, 5.2, 5.3 & 5.4) and thereafter move to point 2, (2.1, 2.2 & 2.3). Then review where next.

8. CJOIP Discussion

MMW – We have a new strategy, which requires us to produce a new CJOIP. The lead into that was the Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment, which we undertook with support from the partnership here. The new CJOIP is in the process of being written in respect of what we want for Orkney for the next 5 to 7 years, however, this has to be a collaborative approach. The plan is to try and set up some workshops. Today it would be good to collect thoughts from the group around the following.

First Question, when we think about Community Justice, it means different things to different people, looking to establish what that means for the Partnership. The main questions are:

1. What are we achieving in Orkney?
2. What should we be achieving in Orkney?
3. Which of the priorities are we furthest away from achieving?
4. How will we make progress on our priority National Outcomes?
5. How will we evidence this?

KS – MMW has reached out and is involved in other Partnerships I think that strengthens all the Partnerships we are involved in and there is much more linkage between partnerships now. Coming from CLD and Employability we now have some great services and workshops available that we didn't have a few years ago. I don't think we are there yet, but I think we are on a really positive part of that journey.

TB – We know from the numbers coming through and the activity in the Criminal Justice System that there is either a decrease or an increase in prosecutions for domestic abuse in various forms. There does seem to be a significant need for positive work with perpetrators to try and change the culture around that. MMW has been trying for a number of years now to push the White Ribbon agenda. If we are trying to identify things, we are not doing that is something we have consistently talked about but struggle to gain traction on this. – Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme or the absence thereof in Orkney at this time. Chair - The links between Violence against Women and Girls group is as strong with this partnership as it could or should be. There should be a space for us to follow that up more effectively in terms of the agenda around it. TB – ZB and I both sit on the Orkney Partnership against Gendered-based Violence and Abuse. There might be an opportunity at a future meeting to get Jane the Co-ordinator who is currently in that post who is support the work of that group to come and talk at this group. That could be a practical way of linking the two partnerships.

Action: Add this to a future agenda item as a starting point.

CC – On reflection of the points that have been raised, looking at the data that has been released, the Publish Data of Child Protection Interventions has shown that domestic abuse has shown a significant increase in that data. It is the top registration category in Scotland right now. This is defiantly an area too look at for partnerships working together. Partnership working is probably a priority for all of us with all the plans that we have.

SM – I think the clue is in the title, I think Justice is something that is done to people, Community Justice is bringing justice back to the community for the community to deal with. This is like restorative justice, it makes it local, and the punishment meets the crime and community.

9. Families Outside Training Session Update on March Training Sessions

MMW – Highlighted that the training did take place, we have 29 attendees over the two sessions which did complement each other. It involved the Child Impact Assessment and how we support children through a process. This initially was about a mother being imprisoned but that has been developed to a relative being imprisoned and going through the whole Justice process and the impact this has on children. We had strong representation from Education, Social Work, we also had the Children's Reporter and some of the third sector organisations. A lot of positive feedback from these sessions, there will be a further session which will be online and will promote this when it has been arranged, aiming for the summertime this year.

KM – Very positive feedback from these sessions and already seeing some referrals coming from Orkney to Families Outside.

TB – Noted that she attended the sessions, and it was very helpful and comprehensive. TB also asked if KM could put her email in the chat as she has been trying to get in touch.

10. Throughcare Update/Commissioning

MMW – Part of the paperwork that was circulated the Option Appraisal Recommendation document from Community Justice Scotland which was published last September 2023. There has been a review of how we provide throughcare services as a desire in terms of how Scottish Government want to take this forward. There has been a determination, and it has been shared amongst the third sector primarily to encourage those interested to come forward and submit bids to be part of the throughcare structure from April 2025, in Scotland.

When this documentation came in it was put to specific third sector groups in Orkney for their awareness about the process, but it was also put to VAO to share far and wide across the third sector to see if anyone was interested in this process.

Discussions have been held in many partnerships across the country and there has been a couple of concerns raised by them. The Cabinet Secretary for Justice followed the recommendation of Community Justice Scotland to choose option 3. CJS and Scottish Government have asked to expressions of interest from Third Sector Organisations by March 8th which has now passed. However, those who have not submitted yet are not excluded from submitting a grant application in the future. The next deadline was the 19th of March which again has passed, grant launched hosted by CJS and Scottish Government. Two follow up events online have also been planned, this is to learn more about the grant process and engage with other third sector organisation who are interested in developing grant applications to the process. Any third sector organisations that are no aware can contact the Commissioning Group at CJS, which has been circulated in the correspondence.

15th of April is the next deadline, which is the Grant process opening, 10th of June the Grant process will close, in September there will be an awarding of the grant and looking at implementation in April 2025.

11. Independent Review of Sentencing and Penal Policy

MMW – This is being undertaken, there is a link on the agenda that helps describe the increase on the prison population, and points raised on how to reduce crime. It is encouraging Community Sentencing where appropriate as the evidence points to reduced reoffending when compared to custodial sentences. The review is taking place and there will be further correspondence that comes out in relation to it to encourage people to engage with the review once it is established.

12. Any Other Current Business

No AOCB

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 15 July 2024 10.00am

DRAFT