



Orkney Community Justice Partnership

Minutes of the Community Justice Partnership Meeting held on Friday 8 December 2023 from 11:00-13:00 hybrid via Microsoft Teams and OIC Bunker.

Present

Stephen Brown (SB)

Sharon-Ann Paget (SP)

Matthew Webb (MMW)

Scott McLellan (SM)

Connie Calvo (CCal)

Callan Curtis (CCur)

David Hall (DH)

Linsey Hall (LH)

Kirsten Law (KL)

Neil Gentleman (NG)

Mandy Grundon (MG)

Kerry Spence (KS)

Orkney Health and Care (Chair)

Orkney Health and Care – Service Manager PP

Orkney Health and Care (Minutes)

Scottish Prison Services

Skills Development Scotland

Orkney Health and Care

Inspector - Police Scotland

Councillor

Families Outside

Care Inspectorate

Relationship Scotland

CLD, Employability

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

Apologies were received or assumed from:

Ann Clark (AC)

Thomas Love (TL)

Zelda Bradley (ZB)

Tamsin Bailey (TB)

Diane Young

Tony McLaughlin (TM)

Megan McWilliams (MM)

Michelle Ward (MW)

Frances Troup (FT)

Claire Meakin (CM)

Jo Muir (JM)

Elanor Fraser (EF)

Kerri Liddle (KL)

James Sutherland (JS)

Hannah Casey (HC)

Right There (formerly Y People)

Victim Support Scotland

Orkney Rape & Sexual Assaults Service - ORSAS

Relationship Scotland – Orkney

NHS Orkney Mental Health Team

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Social Security Scotland

Women's Aid Orkney

Head of Service - Housing - OIC

Education, Leisure and Housing – OIC

Social Security Scotland

Environmental Health

Skills Develop Scotland

Police Scotland

NHS Orkney Public Health Manager

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 the group for any good highlights from services in this past year.

KS – A lot of good work from a local employability partnership (LEP) perspective for Community Learning Development (CLD). They have done a lot of work with other partners and currently have a Lived Experience Panel; they are offering great insight to improve the LEP. We created an employability pipeline; it was built for partners to see what we deliver from the stage of not actively looking for to right up to being in post and what support needs there are. There are five stages, really proud of this piece of work as it was not in place before.

We are working closely with Orkney College for Adult Learning, who have been struggling to provide provisions for English speaking of other languages. The Learning Link have picked that element and we have been working with Housing with a Saturday Café Scheme, where volunteers have been coming in to help, mainly this group is Ukrainian Families but other have been joining in the group also. Lots of good stuff across CLD.

3. Action Tracker (Matthew Webb)

LH – Noted the action regarding concerns of Reporting from the local Media. LH added a concern from the most recent local media reporting regarding School Absences, which was incorrect. LH noted this was being actioned from a corporate perspective and wondered if this committee has any actions completed regarding this?

SB noted the lengthy discussion from the last meeting held regarding the reporting on Court Cases and the impact this has on victims, perpetrators, and their families. What was agreed last time is that ZB (Who is not in attendance today) would attend the Public Protection Chief Officers Group (COG) which she did a few weeks ago. There is still a lot of work to do, one of the conversations that did take place is, this is wider than just the OCJP, we recognise in relation to Public Protection we don't have a Communication and Public Engagement Subgroup as part of our structure. Looking to set up this group in the future, this would help us to co-ordinate campaigns and messages out to the public. As part of this group, it will open a seat up for someone from the local press to attend.

LH described another example of recent Court Proceeding where council employees were identified as witnesses by the local newspaper, which was unacceptable, and they should have been treated the same as other witnesses who are the victim of abuse.

MMW – CJOIP is still to be completed and work is ongoing to update this. Most local authorities are in this position. Terms of reference we will come to later in the agenda. We have covered Local Media Concerns and Restorative Justice we will again cover in the agenda. The Post Custodial Release Pathway, update is there are

meetings still ongoing, and we have examined what happens in other parts of the Scotland in terms of how they deliver this service. There is presently a response in Orkney that is currently fit for purpose however, what we are looking to do and make this a more formal structure.

4. Matters Arising not Covered on Agenda

MMW - Nothing to add that is not on the agenda.

5. Inputs – Self Evaluation, Care Inspectorate and TIP Consultation

Self Evaluation - CI

NG shared “Self-evaluation for Community Justice” presentation with the meeting and on screen. NG went through the presentation and followed with questions after.

SP and MMW met with NG a couple of weeks ago and went over the framework, SP thought it would be good as a partnership to break down the different areas where we are not doing the best as a whole. SP thinks this tool will be a very good way to pull everything together for this committee.

SB is keen that we always look at self-evaluation and mentioned that the work that MMW has done over the last couple of years for this committee around preparing for that Annual Reports helps us get into the space of how we are doing, what more should or could we be doing etc. The work all takes place on an annual basis however this framework will be helpful towards this process.

SB proposed that the committee member review the links and documents that NG has shared with us today and narrow down two or three areas that we would want to explore a bit more. **Action:** SB would like to have this discussion at the next meeting and add this as an item. Cllr Hall highlighted the difficulty in gathering information from Service Users who are not best placed to offer a response. NG highlighted the importance of triangulation – People telling you of their own experiences, observations from the services themselves, (those that are working them) and finally feedback from the community. Areas are doing a lot in relation to speaking to people and getting feedback, however it is important to bring that together and for partnerships to do this in collaborative way. The Framework supports this.

KS noted as a partnership we have been really proactive and certainly when we were doing all the work around the report that CCur and MMW was involved in we did a lot of self-evaluation work.

Trauma Informed Practice

CCur shared “Trauma Informed Practice” presentation with the group and discussed findings from the survey. Four key areas identified:

1. Inconsistency of Approach
2. Recording required strengthening
3. Capacity Challenges & staff availability
4. Improve linkages through Strategic Groups

Aim is to raise awareness around Trauma Informed practice for all staff. Five sessions available throughout Orkney from the provider Epione.

Chair – whilst access to the NHS National Education Scotland (NES) Training materials was easier for people with NHS/OIC accounts what options were available for other colleagues in the Partnership (non NHS/OIC) to access?

CCur – Trauma Informed materials is available online for anyone to use. The only challenge at the moment is you need to set up an account first. Third parties have already accessed them. Chair pleased to hear that NHS sponsored training was now more readily available following concerns in previous years.

6. Service Updates from Partner Agencies

Victim Support

For the **Witness Service**, we've had 37 service engagements since the beginning of April. 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 9 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 attended the Court Open Doors Day back in September, and also the Peedie Bird event for '16 Days of Activism' on November 25th.

Community Learning and Development – Employability

KS . CLD youth services section is getting continuous calls about young people hanging around the Travel Centre and what can we do about it. We are a limited resource and wondered if other partners were involved with this. More lower level nuisance. CLD working with Pickaquoy Centre to allow young people in for free on a Friday afternoon, this is working well if we have youth worker there to make sure everything is okay. Ideally, we do have workers that can go out and do what we call Street Work to engage with these young people, but we currently do not have this resource. Diversion is key to this.

DH – Police not had any calls regarding this recently but is aware there has been issues regarding the Travel Centre for a number of years.

Cllr Hall highlighted that from experience these young people are not necessarily offending and seem to be more attention seeking.

7. ToR Update

ToR action is now complete and will be reviewed in a couple of years' time.

MMW – Quite a significant update from the previous meeting. The partnership elected chair and vice chair which should be reviewed every two years. In previous meetings nominations were encouraged from members, however to date none have been received. Consequently, MMW proposed if the partnership was in agreement, SB continues as Chair and DH continues as the Vice Chair. All in attendance agreed with this and happy for both to continue in their roles.

In relation to the ToR there was a desire to include a comment which detailed on how the partnership would commission work. The funds available are minimal and presently we make a small contribution to Families Outside and Grace Chocolates and this is in return for some of the work they have done for ourselves. The proposal would be that any commissioning which takes place will be discussed at OCJP group so there is visibility to the partnership. Where higher values of financial spend are taking place we would follow the governance route of the relevant fund that was being accessed. In every instance there will be visibility amongst partners to provide financial scrutiny. The Council procurement route is a fall back option for larger amounts of spend.

8. UPW/CPO Activities

This item is added to raise awareness of some of the work that has been going on as part of Community Justice. The main aim is to positively influence the behaviour of people who are going through the Criminal Justice system, including those who are undertaking CPO's.

Learning Journey - this is to look at an alternative to the Caledonian System perpetrator programme, which focuses on domestic offenders. Like 13 out of 32 local authorities we do not have access to this in Orkney. Other remote and rural areas do not have access to this either. The work continues in partnership with NHS Highland, in particular Myra Ross who has delivered a prison-based program which we are trying to translate into a community-based programme. There is interest with other Community Justice Partnerships in the North of Scotland. This would be an Online Programme. There would be a small cost towards this but would be shared across all other interested Community Justice Partnerships. Aberdeen City are also looking to do something similar; discussions are taking place with them to see how far along they are and to share and learn with them.

Addiction Support pilot, we are looking to try and do some online support for people who are on a CPO or going through UPW. As part of their hours, we are looking to conduct sessions within the Odin Stone about addiction, to help educate them on the dangers of drugs/addiction. We are also working with Right There to help develop a program that will hopefully be available in the new year.

There is also a program being developed by Scottish Fire and Rescue with the VR headsets and looking to get this into the Odin Stone, there is a session booked within the next couple of weeks.

Literacy and employment support, a meeting was held with the Learning Link in relation of how we can support people who struggle with numeracy and literacy skill and if they are willing. This is done alongside CLD and Learning Link. Attending

these types of sessions will count as Other Activity and be subtracted off their CPO hours.

KS mentioned about encouraging people into volunteering roles supporting the Island Games in 2025. 800 vacancies available and a good opportunity to explore if we can encourage those with experience of the justice system to be considered for this.

SP highlighted that our numbers of CPO's and UPW have gone up significantly, last year we had 54 people subject to CPO and today we have 76, this is a significant increase in numbers. This is interpreted as a positive in that we are more reliant upon community sentences with less reliance on short term prison sentences. The Chair was interested to understand if there had been a reduction in Diversion from Prosecution. SP confirmed this was not the case, however suggested that we were simply getting back to pre-pandemic levels for CPOs.

9. Community Justice Scotland – Update

Currently working on the Outcome Activity Report which will hopefully be rolled out next year. MW and SB have the IJB meeting soon to discuss the local report which will then be fed into the national report.

10. RJ Update – Space to Face

Space to Face is a Shetland based organisation, significant experience within the Restorative Justice sector. The challenge we have with this is we are still waiting a determination from the Scottish Government with regards to how this will be getting rolled out. There was a desire that this would be complete by 2023, with COVID and various other delays this is no longer the case. MMW proposed that Claire from Space to Face would come and present at the next meeting. Space to Face would be keen to partner with a local group in Orkney to deliver the RJ activity.

11. Families Outside Training Session

KL and MW have been chatting over the past couple of months about Families Outside coming up and delivering some training in Orkney. This is part of an agreement to do this Annually, focusing on the purpose of this year and the audience for this year's training. Yesterday in Parliament the UNCRC bill was unanimously supported by MSPs, so this is moving ahead for full incorporation into Scots Law which is great news for Children and Young People across the country. With this focus of children's rights being quite prevalent at the moment, there is a new resource in the UK call Child Impact Assessment Tool, this is really a guided conversation tool to use with young people and is very "Rights" focused. As a Country we are moving forward incorporating the UNCRC into Law, it is going to be expected on Public and Statutory Services to evidence what they are doing to uphold the UNCRC and how service is responding to that. In relation to Justice a big part of this will be looking at children with parental/family imprisonment happening in their lives and how their rights are being upheld. There are several Articles that daily in Scotland are infringed for young people because the Justice system in Scotland, the way it is currently set up, does not consider children's rights. So, daily they are impacted and infringed upon quite severely. This guided conversational tool (a UK

wide tool) is a way to instantly combat this as an organisation, public body as a School. It is a tool that allows young people to have their voices noted and their opinions heard and raised at the appropriate places, where necessary. This is an opportunity for them to be involved in the things that are happening in their lives. Whereas now everything in the Justice System happens behind closed doors and they are very rarely involved in this process. Families Outside have taken on the responsibility for distributing this across Scotland. Families Outside have been working closely with The Prison Reform Trust who are responsible for the research and creation of the resource. They are a UK wide organisation, and we just focus on Scotland so we have taken the lead to distribute the learning for the research and the tool kit itself and to make sure as many people in Scotland are familiar with how the Justice System in Scotland can impact Children's rights and what we can do to combat this. This focuses on the entire justice system. With this coming out and being one of the Country's focus, Families Outside is going to focus their training this year based on this, with an additional session which will be more broadly focused on the impact of imprisonment on families. KL outlined several options to conducting this training.

MW had a discussion with SP regarding funding of this, the preferred options for this would be option 1 (face-to-face training) and option 3 (online training). MW discussed numbers for the training which would limit how many from each service would be able to attend. An aim to conduct this training in early Spring 2024 to give time for organising. Following some online training for those who were unable to attend the in-person training.

KS & DH mentioned capacity issues and would be grateful if dates for training could be supplied as soon as possible.

Action: MW & KL to organise dates for training as soon as possible.

New regional FO representative is Karen McEwan who has replaced Caroline Cooper. Karen will be the new representative on the OCJP.

12. Prison Release Group

This month's figures we currently have nine people in custody who are linked to Orkney. No one is on remand and two of the nine in custody are on short term sentences. The other seven are sitting on long term sentences.

13. MAPPA/MARAC Statistics Update

SP – Our MAPPA levels are always low, and we currently only have 8 individuals that are subject to MAPPA, and they are all level 1. This item is mainly for information only.

14. Any Other Current Business

None.

15. Date of Next Meeting

27 March 2024 11.00 – 13.00