

East Lothian Community Justice Partnership



MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

10am-12noon, Monday 28th September 2020, hosted on MS Teams

Partnership Members Present:

Neil Mitchell, Police Scotland - Area Commander, (Chair)
Iain Gorman, H&SCP - Head of Operations, (Vice Chair)
Jim Goodfellow, ELC - Councillor
Judith Tait, ELC - Chief Operating Officer Children's Services & CSWO
Fiona O'Donnell, ELC - Councillor
David Abernethy, Scottish Prison Service - Governor, Edinburgh Prison
Martin Bonnar, MELDAP - Service Manager
Caitlin McCorry, ELC - Connected Communities Service Manager
Emma Mathews, Service Manager - Skills Development Scotland (SDS)
Maureen Allan, Chief Officer - Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL)

Others in Attendance

Stephanie Kerr, ELC - Community Justice Coordinator (Minute Taker)
Trish Carlyle, H&SCP – General Manager
Laura Buchan, COPFS - PF
Paolo Vestri, ELC - Corporate Policy Service Manager

Apologies:

Gavin Philips, SACRO
James Coutts, ELC - Housing
Sharon Saunders, ELC - Head of Communities & Partnerships
Lynn Black, Police Scotland - Community Liaison Officer
Julie Morton, ELC - Justice Social Work Services
David Girrity, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Nicky Sandford, ELC – Housing Options Team

Item No.		Action by
1.	Introductions and apologies NM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.	

East Lothian Community Justice Partnership

2.	<p>Actions from previous meeting Most action complete. Outstanding actions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) For NS (Nicky Sandford) to speak to Jon Turvill (Clinical Director of H&SCP) re the role of public health in the GRRR workstream (carried over from January 2020). b) GP (SACRO) advised that the SHINE (mentoring service) and New Routes continued to run. New Routes had continued to support people on liberation. c) EM (SDS) advised work had been ongoing where appropriate and agreed to meet with ME (Marion Ellison) in relation to a shared programme of works with QMU. <p>Minutes of the last meeting (June 2020) were approved as an accurate record.</p>	<p>JM/ GP/ NC (Nicky Cochrane) to discuss SHINE</p> <p>EM/ME to meet to discuss shared programme</p>
3.	<p>Update on Covid related issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. L Buchan – COPFS <p>LB advised that at the start of the Covid outbreak in March, only 12 Courts were open across Scotland. Edinburgh Sheriff court was open and covering business for Livingstone, Selkirk and Jedburgh courts. These courts opened again over June and August to resume summary business including trials, deferrals and Justice of the Peace business. Meanwhile ‘cinema’ models have been tested to hold cases. This involves cases being heard in actual cinemas where there is enough space to allow for social distancing. The Lothian and Borders courts are to resume Jury business in the near future once models have been tested for appropriate security and public access issues. There is a considerable backlog of solemn and summary business.</p> <p>LB mentioned that the Justice Committee had just published a report on the safe reopening of solemn courts and included recommendations of virtual courts and using live links from St Leonard’s police station.</p> <p>LB then invited question from members: FO’D asked if there were any types of cases that were being prioritised by the Courts such as domestic abuse cases? LB replied that yes, they were trying to prioritise domestic abuse case including breaches of conditions.</p> <p>JT asked what the back log of cases meant for community justice and for people delivering services? Asking what we could be putting in place to support people; unable to move on due to their cases not being heard, missing opportunities for critical interventions, and the longer term impacts this will have on offenders and their families. LB replied they were keen to get back to business and were exploring a number of ways in which they could do this through various national groups and testing new models of delivery. LB acknowledged that the impact of delays would be very hard for some people and their families.</p>	

East Lothian Community Justice Partnership

<p>IG asked about unpaid work delays and how this backlog could be cleared. TC advised that JM was working with relevant parties to put measures in place to support getting through the backlog. LB added that were committees working nationally and it is important that Local Authorities voices are heard in national discussions.</p> <p>NM asked if there had been any reduction in thresholds on what cases the courts would proceed with. LB advised that no instructions have been made at this point but that this might change.</p> <p>NM also asked if the delay in warrants being issued had been resolved. LB advised that yes they had but would double check this.</p> <p>NM then asked what might change due to Covid in terms of Court provisions? LB answered that review were currently taking place and that pilot models were being tested using secure sites as staff still needed to be present for victims. Models were being tested that allow partner agencies to give evidence from their own site (i.e. police giving evidence from police stations and medics from hospital) but this would be different from members of the public giving evidence and they would need to ensure that any IT being used was secure.</p> <p>DA added that Covid and the early prisoner release scheme had a limited impact on the number of people from East Lothian in prison and that the number of EL prisoners had sat around 70 since last year even though there had a been a great variance in the number of people in prison after the early release scheme. DA added that prisoner numbers were now increasing with a considerable number of people coming in on remand (which was very low at the start of the Covid outbreak). LB added that Court processes with the prison were now much slicker but still need to improve as there has been a return to normal life in relation to community crime but the courts still have a much reduced capacity to deal with people who have offended. DA added there were people in prison who had been on remand for 14 months and these were mostly domestic abuse cases. LB advised that 20 people accused pre Covid that were still on remand.</p> <p>DA updated that there were 24 people from EL on remand and 71 prisoners in total. 4 of these were young offenders, 2 were on home curfew and 27 were long term prisoners (with sentences of 4 years or more).</p> <p>NM asked LB if there was anything the CJP could do to support the Court system and LB replied that she would ask the Barr Association this when they next meet.</p> <p>LB talked about the mental health intervention project currently being delivered in Edinburgh and Livingstone police cells. The 3 year project has been running for approx. 4 weeks and offers direct access to mental health nurses for people arrested.</p> <p>NM thanked LB for attending the meeting.</p> <p>b. All CJ Partners – Updates</p>	<p>LB to double check warrant issues had be resolved.</p>
--	---

East Lothian Community Justice Partnership

	<p>NM asked JT what information we currently had in relation to children & young people and Covid. JT replied that the evidence coming from services was there had been considerable negative impacts on some young people. The lack of structure had affected a number of young people and impacted on their mental health putting them at risk of, and compromising the safety of people they come in to contact with. There were also challenges in supported units with staff trying to keep young people in and sticking to the Covid legislation. Staff were also concerned about the loss of face to face contact there had been some IT issues impacting on meetings and reviews.</p> <p>JT went on to say that we know who these children are from a very early age and that we need universal services and a multi-agency approach to support them. JT mentioned that East Renfrewshire hadn't had a single child in secure care for the last 6 years. NM suggested LB looked at this issue through the Early Intervention and Prevention workstream.</p> <p>EM added Skills Development Scotland (SDS) were seeing an increase in youth unemployment and were taking a targeted approach to working with school leavers. EM added that school leavers with limited home support were struggling to find positive destinations to move on to. EM has been working with Y Binks (ELC Education) to increase the attendance of young people using the Spark of Genius service, and have a tailored programme in place to support this.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been an increase in redundancies affecting parents and children.</p> <p>CM added that there had been a recent investment in school counselling services and the recruitment of 6 mental health officers was now underway. JT said that L Binnie (ELC Education) is the contact for this service. NM added that the police were seeing an increase in youth related disorder in Musselburgh and Dunbar. There has also been an increase in ASB, and officers were working with Recharge in Tranent and the Bridges project in Musselburgh to resolve this.</p> <p>JT added that the Children Strategic Partnership Plan had 3 strategic Priorities in it which focus on: mental health, family and parenting support, and reducing inequalities.</p> <p>MA mentioned that VCEL have an outdoor centre which is not currently being utilised. MA/ TC/ JT agreed to discuss this out with the meeting.</p> <p>MB updated the partnership on the work of MELD(AP) and that during the early stages of the Covid crisis that medication had been delivered direct to peoples doors. He also reported there had been an increase in ad-hoc drug use and they had been promoting the "stick don't twist" message to reduce poly/ multi-drug use. There has also been a benzodiazipan subgroup set up. The service had also worked closely</p>	<p>LB to follow this up with the EI&P workstream</p> <p>MA/TC to discuss</p>
--	--	--

East Lothian Community Justice Partnership

	<p>with the Police during the recent 'Operation Juneau'. NM thanked MB for his teams support with this.</p> <p>DA gave an update on the prison service and said that prisoner face to face visits had gradually increasing but that these needed to be reflected of local Covid restrictions. Prisoners had been given mobile phones so they can make contact with their families and added that phones were not internet enabled.</p> <p>MA updated on the work of VCEL saying that they had been working their way through the list of local volunteers who registered at the start of Covid. They have also been supporting the digital access program and working with "people know how" which distributed refurbished laptops to improve digital access. CM added that Connecting Scotland had given two laptops to the organisation Families Outside (who support families affected by imprisonment). CM added that if anyone need a laptop to contact her directly and she would circulate the criteria for access to this.</p> <p>IG/ TC updated that the Health and Social Care Partnership were looking at a Covid recovery plan and how this will impact on justice social work services. They were using a strategic needs and strengths assessment approach to do this.</p> <p>EM updated SDS were monitoring the impact with school leavers who left in May this year. SDS were back to delivering face to face work in 5 out of 6 high schools. They were looking at alternative options for delivery as the Musselburgh centre was not yet open and will be by appointment only when it does open.</p> <p>FO'D mentioned that the biggest issues raising concern for elected members were ASB related.</p>	<p>CM to circulate criteria for access to laptops</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Updates from workstream leads</p> <p>a. Community Engagement CM updated that work was ongoing in relation to promoting the Unpaid Work team on social media. CM added that the workstream were looking at spending the allocated funding on a possible CJ e-learning module and trauma informed training. JT said L Binnie was leading on the roll-out of trauma informed training. SS/ IG/ JT agreed to discuss the delivery of the training in more detail as "Pan Lothian Recovery Action". It was agreed that the trauma informed approach should be rolled out to Elected Members too. NM/CM then discuss the possibility of a CJ Twitter account. CM to discuss who would own and manage the account with S Cooper.</p> <p>b. Getting it Right to Reduce Reoffending NS was not in attendance but discussion around the following work within the GRRR remit took place. NM & JT agreed to meet to look at how the TRANSFORM and CONNECT groups could be evaluated and made even better. JT agreed to take forward this question with NS. TC agreed to have a conversation with JM in</p>	<p>SS/ IG/ JT to discuss</p> <p>CM to discuss with S Cooper</p> <p>NM/ JT/ NS to discuss</p> <p>TC/JM to discuss</p>

East Lothian Community Justice Partnership

	<p>relation to this and to include a possible link to the Justice Outcome Star as part of measuring outcomes for people. JT suggested that both TRANSFORM & CONNECT needed joint owners.</p> <p>c. Early Intervention and Prevention LB was not at the meeting but SK gave a quick update that the workstream had met and looked at issues around youth ASB. The workstream had some options for spending the allocated budget and this would be firmed up at the next meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>Community Justice Coordinator</p> <p>c. Community Justice Annual Report SK advised that the Community Justice Annual report was complete and submitted to Community Justice Scotland. She highlighted there had been some great pieces of work over the financial year and these were identified in the report. A quick summary of these are the Self Evaluation process, the consultation with communities on the Policing Plan, the work of the Unpaid Work Team and Community Payback Orders, data sharing and the SHORE standards and the work of the 3 workstreams.</p>	
6.	<p>AOCB NM mentioned that Operation Juneau was about to be launched and was focusing on ensuring access to service to people who needed them. NM thanked IG/NC and MB for their support with this.</p> <p>FO'D asked if drug related deaths could be added to the next meeting agenda?</p>	<p>Add drug related deaths to next meeting agenda.</p>
7.	<p>Date of Next Meeting(s) Friday 4th December, 1-3pm Tuesday 26th January, 1-3pm</p>	