



**MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF
EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP**

1pm – 3pm, Friday 4th December 2020, hosted on MS Teams

Partnership Members Present:

Neil Mitchell (NM), Police Scotland - Area Commander, (Chair)
Judith Tait (JT), ELC - Chief Operating Officer Children's Services & CSWO
Fiona O'Donnell (FoD), ELC - Councillor
David Abernethy (DA), Scottish Prison Service - Governor, Edinburgh Prison
Martin Bonnar (MB), MELDAP - Service Manager
Caitlin McCorry (CMC), ELC - Connected Communities Service Manager
Emma Mathews (EM), Service Manager - Skills Development Scotland (SDS)
Maureen Allan (MA), Chief Officer - Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL)
Sharon Saunders (SS), ELC - Head of Communities & Partnerships
Professor Marion Ellison (ME), Queen Margaret University

Others in Attendance

Stephanie Kerr (SK), ELC - Community Justice Coordinator
Trish Carlyle (TC), H&SCP – General Manager
Julie Morton (JM), ELC - Justice Social Work Services
Nicky Sandford (NS), ELC – Housing Options Team
Paolo Vestri (PV), ELC - Corporate Policy Service Manager
Alannah Juchniewicz (AJ), Police Scotland - Community Liaison Officer

Apologies:

Iain Gorman (IG), H&SCP - Head of Operations, (Vice Chair)
James Coutts (JC), ELC - Housing

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Item No.		Action by
1.	<p>Introductions and apologies NM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.</p> <p>September meeting minutes agreed by MA and JT</p>	
2.	<p>Actions from previous meeting Most actions 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 June 2020). b) GP (SACRO) advised that the SHINE (mentoring service) and New Routes continued to run during the early stages of the Covid pandemic. New Routes had continued to support people on liberation. It was agreed that JM/GP and NC would meet to talk about strengthening the links between the SHINE service and substance misuse/Justice services. 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. ME/EM advised work ongoing. d) 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. e) CM to discuss who would own and manage the CJ Twitter account with S Cooper. CM/SC to meet with Comms team. f) 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. SK mentioned she had spoken to Edinburgh Uni who have a team with a remit to support formal evaluations of services and if we could draft an outline of evaluation requirements they would allocate a member of staff to work with us to do carry out the evaluation. TC agreed to have a conversation with JM in relation to the evaluation and to include a possible link to the Justice Outcome Star as part of measuring outcomes for people. JM to update re CONNECT at later date. Derek to update re TRANSFORM at next meeting. g) NM to look at revamping action log. NM to send draft copy of action log to SK. 	<p>NS - To remain as an action.</p> <p>JM/GP and NC</p> <p>EM/ ME - To be kept as an action.</p> <p>MA/TC - To be kept as an action.</p> <p>CM/SC</p> <p>NM/ JT/ SK</p> <p>TC/ JM</p> <p>NM</p>
3.	<p>Updates from Workstream Leads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Getting it Right to Reduce Reoffending 	

<p>The GRRR action plan has been reviewed and streamlined for the purposes of inclusion in the LOIP and this has included consideration of membership.</p> <p>NS confirmed that the Housing Options Team (Prevention) had successfully recruited for two additional posts, a Prevention Officer and Tenancy Support Officer. The successful candidates are due to hopefully take up the positions in January 2021. These two new posts, funded 50% via Rapid Rehousing Monies and 50% via HRA, shall provide additional capacity across the team to enable a revised and improved approach to people leaving prison.</p> <p>A multi-agency release planning group has now been set up, which meets regularly to discuss people leaving prison, based on the weekly stats reports. DA asked if the group had the correct list of contacts for the prison. He also offered to arrange visits, if required, for the group to meet the prison staff involved with releases.</p> <p>By following this new approach, people who have been placed in prison should, where appropriate, be allocated a Homelessness Prevention case worker who will work with them from the outset and will attend the multi-agency release planning group to liaise with other agencies and ensure both a co-ordinated approach in terms of joint working and support a preventative approach prior to release. A Tenancy Support Worker will then be allocated to ensure a smooth transition regarding resettlement, once accommodation has been sourced. With the new posts due to be starting in January 2021, it is likely that this new approach will, therefore, begin to be rolled out by the end of February.</p> <p>Two potential options are currently being progressed with regards to the development of suitable accommodation for single, hard to place households (including people leaving prison), in accordance with the legislative changes anticipated early next year. These two projects would provide 24 places of supported accommodation, although there are currently issues with capital funding that require to be addressed before the projects can progress further.</p> <p>Work is currently ongoing on the national Housing Options Toolkit at both local and national level, with around 50% of the modules now complete. This project will enable housing advice in its broadest sense (i.e. including health and social care, employability etc.) to be rolled out consistently across a broad range of agencies and provide a tool to support people leaving prison.</p> <p>Work on the areas NS described will further provide a foundation for the wider implementation of the SHORE standards and Housing First, with £40k secured for the latter. Although this is in its early stages, the funding which they have obtained will enable closer joint working between housing and the mental health and substance misuse teams, to better support vulnerable people with complex needs, including those with offending backgrounds, to sustain tenancies.</p> <p>b. Early Intervention & Prevention</p>	
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	<p>NM informed the meeting that AJ had recently taken over from Lynne Black as Community Liaison Officer. NM mentioned the Edinburgh the Violent Offender Watch (VOW) model being used in Edinburgh and funded by cash back for Communities. He gave a quick update regarding the work being carried out by the YCOG. They are hoping to possibly have staff/volunteers back providing talks in schools next year. The number of reports received for missing children/young people has reduced by 50% since lockdown. However, NM did express that Police Scotland cannot take responsibility for this decrease in reports.</p> <p>JT raised that a more strategic approach was needed in the local authority to help reduce the number of young people being charged. JM reported that current youth offender numbers are relatively low. Names need to be known in order to monitor for possible reoffending. Therefore, a Youth Justice strategy is required and should sit with the EI&P workstream. NM & JT to discuss Youth Strategy.</p> <p>CMC mentioned the 'Get Connected' project had received funding and could link in with this new strategy.</p> <p>FoD thanked NM and the team for their contribution in assisting with the recent issues that have occurred in Port Seton and Cockenzie.</p> <p>c. Community Engagement CMC advised that a lot of changes had taken place since the last meeting. Confirmation of the new representative for Police Scotland, who shall replace Allan Paul (AP), was still to be agreed. Strive are now known as Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL). CMC talked about their thoughts on updating the website, reinforcing the message regarding what is offered by Justice Services and community justice values.</p> <p>Ciara Webb (CW) has joined the Justice Services team and shall co-lead this workstream, as well as promote the unpaid work team. JM advised having CW as co-lead on the workstream shall help to divide up the various tasks between departments.</p> <p>There has been discussion about using the £4000 funding received to create a short promotional video about the partnership. JT suggested that it would be good to find a way to get clients to share their stories/experiences and explain how the service has helped them.</p> <p>MB mentioned that MELD had recently asked their support workers to make a video to promote the service they offer. He asked the meeting if they would like him to share the video. It was agreed that this would be helpful. MB to circulate MELD promo video.</p>	<p>NM & JT</p> <p>MB</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Community Justice Updates</p> <p>a. Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment</p>	<p>All to read report and send</p>

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<p>NM thanked ME for completing this assessment. ME talked through the Strategic Strengths and Needs Assessment (SNSA). She highlighted the key findings surrounding the impact that Covid-19 has had on young people and carers, focusing on the potential employability opportunities for young people, and the mental health of carers who are not necessarily receiving the ongoing support they require.</p> <p>Another key finding that she highlighted was East Lothian's increasing population projection and the impact that this will have on services, especially for older people.</p> <p>The assessment suggested the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To address the challenges arisen by Covid-19 2. To evaluate the processes relating to the closure of Haddington Court 3. To focus on the recording of postcodes and housing status of people convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court 4. To take account of the increasing poverty levels 5. To develop further collaborations with the education sector <p>PV suggested that the EL Partnership would be reviewing their strategic needs assessment and would use some of the content from the CJ SNSA.</p> <p>b. Draft LOIP (2021-2024)</p> <p>SK presented the first draft of the Community Justice Local Outcome Improvement Plan (CJ LOIP). She highlighted that the main sections were populated using data from both ME's SNSA and from other local sources which focused on the big issues in relation to Community Justice in East Lothian. The main body of the action plan was made up from the 3 separate workstream action plans, which in turn, had been slightly revised to fit with the format of the developing LOIP. There are a number of appendices to the LOIP including a comprehensive service mapping exercise, and Community Justice Scotland's (CJS) Outcomes and Indicators. SK also mentioned that Community Justice Scotland were developing templates for inclusion in the SNSA/LOIPs on diversion, arrest referral and bail supervision.</p> <p>SK/JM would appreciate feedback re the LOIP and will circulate final draft before January's meeting. SK agreed to speak with MA re the service mapping data so it can be added to VCELS service directory on their website.</p> <p>PV offered to raise the LOIP at the next Governance group meeting in Feb/March.</p> <p>c. Prison Release</p> <p>Due to the Coronavirus legislation, Justice Services had to prioritise planning for early releases. If planned correctly, the chance of clients reoffending could be reduced. JM stated that the senior practitioner, Alison Lynch (AL), was currently organising a proposal for the multi-agency release planning group which is due in January 2021. The team are also in the process of creating a better connection with the DWP.</p>	<p>comments to SK.</p> <p>SNSA - To be kept as agenda item.</p> <p>SK/JM</p> <p>SK/MA</p> <p>SK/PV</p>
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	<p>Short term licence offenders are offered support through voluntary throughcare. However, if they do not accept this support, it is tricky to monitor them after release. Offenders are only given an allocated social worker if they have provided an East Lothian address to court. DA stated that getting in contact with offenders who have been liberated from remand can be rather difficult. Trying to provide a service to those while on remand is not always possible.</p> <p>The management team intend to review plans as they go forward. JM hopes that by April 1st they will have something set in motion. JM to find a way to monitor releases from remand without a service (Scope – 6 months).</p>	JM
5.	<p>Long term substance misuse</p> <p>NM was recently involved with the deployment of operation Juneau. This was created to try and reduce substance misuse in the local area. Over three weeks in October, around £50,000 worth of drugs were seized in East Lothian, 46 arrests were made and 18 warrants were issued. During this time, NM stated that people were unable to acquire drugs. The operation was well received by the local community. As a result, Police Scotland are looking to carry out a similar operation in the Summer. They also intend to work with partners and third sector agencies to set up a new East Lothian multi-agency drugs taskforce. MB/IG/JM/NS to discuss group further.</p> <p>NC stated that the partnership had worked well during this operation; communication had been good between the various agencies. Non-fatal overdose numbers have recently gone down (either one or none). MELD are keen to offer naloxone training to other departments in the partnership and NS agree to link with MELD regarding naloxone training for the GRRR workstream.</p>	MB/IG/JM/NS NS/ MELD
6.	<p>Community Justice Finance</p> <p>PV informed the meeting that finance had obtained two sums of funding:</p> <p>1. £50,000 from the Scottish Government. Since 2015, have received funding to help with arrangements for the new partnership. This money was used to employ a temporary Community Justice Officer. This post has since been given to SK.</p> <p>2. In May, additional funding of £12,000 was given to the partnership to go towards collaborative working. At present, they are trying to locate where the money is sitting and £4000 is to be given to each workstream. PV to investigate further re the location of the funding.</p>	PV

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7.	AOCB SK mentioned that ME had introduced PHD student, Anne-Marie MacRae (A-MM), to the Community Justice team. A-MM is currently carrying out research on the speech, language and communication needs of young women and girls in conflict with the law. SK to circulate link to work already carried out by A-MM.	SK
8.	Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 26 th January 2021, 1-3pm	