



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

10:30am – 12:30pm, Thursday 16th September 2021, hosted on MS Teams

Partnership Members Present:

Neil Mitchell (NM), Police Scotland - Area Commander, (Chair)
Iain Gorman (IG), H&SCP - Head of Operations, (Vice Chair)
Jim Goodfellow (JG), ELC - Councillor
David Abernethy (DA), Scottish Prison Service - Governor, Edinburgh Prison
Professor Marion Ellison (ME), Queen Margaret University
Philip O’Kane (PO’K), Client Support Advisor, Team Leader – Social Security Scotland (SSS)
Nichola Cochrane (NC), Service Manager - Mental Health and Substance Misuse (MHSM)

Others in Attendance

Stephanie Kerr (SK), ELC - Community Justice Coordinator
Justine Sharp (JS), ELC – Justice Social Work Services (Minute Taker)
Ciara Webb (CW), ELC – Justice Social Work Services
Alison Lynch (AL), ELC – Justice Social Work Services
Alannah Juchniewicz (AJ), Police Scotland - Community Liaison Officer
Stephen Mitchell (SM), Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Christopher Brand (CB), Skills Development Scotland
Shamin Akhtar (SA), Cabinet Spokesperson for Health and Social Care
Paolo Vestri (PV), Service Manager – Policy, Improvement & Partnerships
Jamie Morris (JM), Mental Health and Substance Misuse (MHSM)
Karyn McCluskey (KMCC), Chief Executive - Community Justice Scotland

Apologies:

Judith Tait (JT), ELC - Chief Operating Officer Children’s Services & CSWO
Julie Morton (JM), ELC - Justice Social Work Services
Sharon Saunders (SS), ELC - Head of Communities & Partnerships
Philip Conaglen (PC), NHS Lothian – Public Health Consultant
Nicky Sandford (NS), ELC – Housing Options Team
Martin Bonnar (MB), MELDAP - Service Manager
Maureen Allan (MA), Chief Officer - Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL)
James Coutts (JC), ELC - Housing

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<p>3 a)</p>	<p>Actions from previous meeting Most actions complete. Outstanding actions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Delivery of trauma informed 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. 10. Evaluate TRANSFORM and CONNECT. 18. Draft LOIP - service mapping detail to be added to VCELs website. 20. Monitor releases from remand without a service (Scope – 6 months). 25. KMacD to have discussion with DA re. Equally Safe Priority 4. 45. DA & IG to have further discussion re. people leaving prison (near miss occurrence – drugs). 50. ME offered to have further discussion with RT regarding the Scottish Centre for Social Justice. 52. YCOG to be reviewed by the workstream leads, NM & LMck in due course. 53. KMacD to ask her leading officer to get in touch with AJ to discuss further early intervention in education. 56. NS to prepare a draft statement regarding concerns raised by the partnership to provide to the Scottish Government. 58. AL to have a discussion with DMacD’s replacement regarding the Group (TRANSFORM). 64. DA offered ME the opportunity to visit the prison, in order to speak to people with lived experience of social injustice. 	<p>JT - To be kept as an action.</p> <p>DMacD/JM</p> <p>SK - To remain as an action.</p> <p>JT</p> <p>KMacD</p> <p>DA/IG</p> <p>ME/RT</p> <p>AJ/SM/NM/LMck</p> <p>KMacD/AJ</p> <p>NS</p> <p>AL</p> <p>DA/ME</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Updates from Workstream Leads</p> <p>a. Getting it Right to Reduce Reoffending</p> <p>Unfortunately, NS was unable to attend the meeting. However, the following update was provided on her behalf by AL:</p> <p>There have been several meetings recently in relation to developing a protocol for a preventative pathway for people leaving prison. The development work has almost concluded, with the new approach to commence from the end of September. This shall result in a focus on people entering, rather than leaving prison, which shall, in turn, hopefully prevent anyone leaving prison from requiring a homeless assessment and sustaining/obtaining appropriate housing at an earlier stage.</p> <p>Discussions are currently ongoing with partner organisations (i.e. Cyrenians, Circle and the Bridges Project) to assist with specific aspects of early intervention, holistic support for families and tenancy support/resettlement. Significant funding has been made available from Homelessness (Rapid</p>	

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<p>Rehousing Transition Plan funding) for proposed new projects which shall enable an increased package of support to assist with the reducing reoffending agenda.</p> <p>Both the Scottish Government and the Scottish Prison Service (Liz Cooper, Strategy) are aware of this new approach and agree with the plans to date, which indicates that East Lothian are leading the way on this.</p> <p>JM and DA have had a few discussions recently regarding the number of EL residents being released from prison. There are currently 63 men from EL remanded/ in custody. AL shall send NM a copy of the prison release information which JSWS receives weekly. KMcC also offered to send NM information regarding arrest warrants.</p> <p>NS has not had the time recently to prepare the paper on local connection. However, she can confirm that the goalposts have changed slightly:</p> <p>The new Programme for Government was published in early September, and includes the proposed legislation around Bail and Release from Custody. This shall reflect the ongoing issues with the numbers in prison, the capacity of prisons and the significant proportion of those incarcerated being held on remand without a conviction. Alternatives to custody being offered are likely to involve an increased use of electronic monitoring and home detention curfews. The Bill shall include reforms to support release arrangements, with a focus on enabling reintegration into the community. Housing shall have a role to play in respect of this. NS understands that there are discussions taking place within CJ nationally regarding a support service which includes housing issues linked to the liberation process in both the courts and police custody. These discussions shall need to acknowledge the proposed changes in local connection and ensure that links here shall be key to ensuring an appropriate approach that shall, in turn, take into account any key issues and concerns going forward.</p> <p>b. Early Intervention & Prevention</p> <p>AJ informed the partnership that since the last meeting, a lot of progress has been made within the workstream. This has been helped with both the easing of the pandemic restrictions and the schools returning following the summer holidays. It is likely that there shall be more opportunities to interact with young people on a face to face basis now that the restrictions have eased.</p> <p>All areas appear to be making good progress and services, particularly those around mental health awareness and support, which have now been well embedded and widely utilised. An evaluation is due to be carried out with regards to the Wellbeing Academy, from which the findings shall be used to inform future service delivery.</p> <p>AJ went on to say that they have had some guest speakers along to last few meetings. These presentations were very informative and have possibly opened up further avenues for early intervention and prevention work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne-Marie McRae (Speech therapist and Doctorate Student from QMU) spoke about how language and speech difficulties can make it difficult for young people to understand the justice system and implications of their actions. 	<p>AL/NM</p> <p>KMcC/NM</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donald Lockhart ('Fast Forward') has been delivering 'Going Forward' sessions since May 2017. The service has been working closely with the Bridges Project in Musselburgh to deliver sessions to support young people to make safe and healthy choices. • Kirsten Kidd (Childrens' worker for the Caledonian Project) spoke about the effects domestic abuse can have on young people who witness it, and how the trauma can lead them into making unhealthy choices. <p>Early Intervention in Education - There are 2 new school link officers for East Lothian. Since the schools have returned, both have been actively engaging with pupils and staff. They have also been working with the Preventions & Interventions officer and school staff to identify what inputs etc. are relevant or needing 're-vamped' for young people.</p> <p>Youth Crime Oversight Group (YCOG) - The YCOG has now been firmly embedded and is going well. They are now looking at areas of development in respect of intervention and the possibility of a more flexible group once there are suitable staff in place. Young people can then be referred to this group through YCOG, social work or the ASB Team. A strategic review of the group shall take place by NM in due course.</p> <p>Missing children and young people pathway - The missing person pathway was rolled out to partner agencies, Lothian Villa and Spark of Genius, earlier this year. They hope to eventually roll this out further to schools and other care establishments.</p> <p>Social Work led Restorative Justice in East Lothian for young people with convictions and their victims - Plans are currently ongoing. This was being discussed at senior management level back in July.</p> <p>Fireskills Training Programme in secondary schools - Fireskills training was sadly suspended throughout Covid. Although the schools have returned, they are still having issues resuming this course in person, and are therefore having to look at other ways of carrying out this training.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Academy - The Wellbeing Academy has progressed well. There are 6 mental health youth workers who are working closely with the local schools and colleagues to deliver a range of targeted interventions, and raise awareness of mental ill-health and wellbeing amongst young people, and how to manage it. The team oversee the mental health and wellbeing information point which is a universal offer of advice, support and sign posting to children, young people, families and staff (accessible on Google). There are further support programmes being developed, and awareness raising around mental health stigma.</p> <p>MYPAS project – The MYPAS project has been both well embedded in education and frequently used by Children's Services. There are currently 24 young people receiving support. An additional post has been secured to focus on the 10-16 year age group.</p> <p>'Engage Befriending' (VCEL) for 8-14 year olds - This service has been successfully delivered, with a steady stream of referrals coming through. They had received a deadline for the funding coming to an end. However, they have managed to secure further funding for a few months. They are also looking at extending the age range to 18-24 year olds.</p>	<p>NM</p>
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	<p><u>Development of an offence-focused module to be delivered by JSW to service users as part of Diversion from Prosecution interventions</u> - This module has now been developed and is currently being reviewed by the JSWS team. They plan to start using this module from the 1st October. SM shall do a short presentation at next EI & P meeting.</p> <p><u>Structured Deferred Sentences (SDS)</u> - SACRO have been contracted by the JSWS team to assess how SDS might be developed. They shall provide a report covering this and give some pointers on how we might best develop SDS locally.</p> <p><u>Development of in-house modules to be delivered as part of 'other activity' for those subject to Community Payback Order</u> - A Citizenship Module is currently being developed by Alison Lynch of the JSWS team, which shall be delivered by social work assistants. All service users sentenced to unpaid work have the opportunity to do a 16 hour learning pack at home which covers topics such as identifying and managing emotions, healthy living etc.</p> <p>c. Community Engagement</p> <p>The Street Cones performance and livestream have both taken place since the last CJP meeting. Links to both the read-through and livestream have been previously circulated to all worksteam members by SK. JSWS have recently received the final evaluation report from Street Cones. CW shall send out a copy of this to all worksteam members in due course. Despite the small number of participants, the feedback was extremely positive. Two service users are to be approached to see whether they would be willing to participate in a longitudinal study following the outcomes of JSW service users. JSWS have a meeting planned with the ELC Arts Service in November to discuss how to develop more creative responses for unpaid work in East Lothian.</p> <p><u>Community Payback Work Team</u> - Recruitment for the Community Payback Work Supervisor post is currently underway with a preferred candidate. An additional Social Work Assistant post (to directly support the CPW Team Leader) also has a preferred candidate and recruitment is underway. CPW Supervisors are now instructing five people per van per day. The Heavy Sound Bike Project resumed on 23rd of August at the Peffermill workshop and shall continue for the next 12 weeks. VCEL have been approached to identify/create 15 new unpaid work placements in the county between now and the end of March.</p> <p>Malky Paul (Heavy Sound Peer Mentoring Manager) has circulated referral forms for mentors and mentees. Referrals have been made by JSWS to the service.</p>	
5.	<p>Annual Report Sign Off</p> <p>Not discussed - to be carried forward to the next CJP meeting.</p>	SK/NM

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6.	<p>Long term substance misuse</p> <p>a) Alcohol & Drugs Harm Group</p> <p>IG informed the partnership that the group did not meet over the summer. He has asked MB to put together an action plan in preparation for their meeting with MELDAP at the end of the month. IG hopes to have a further update to share with the partnership in the autumn. He also intends to advise the partnership on the newly refreshed MELDAP action plan.</p> <p>NC and NM agreed to meet at a later date to further discuss the rising number in attempted suicides.</p>	<p>IG</p> <p>NC/NM</p>
7.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>a) Partnership Timeline</p> <p>Not discussed - to be carried forward to the next CJP meeting.</p> <p>b) New ADP Funding</p> <p>Not discussed - to be carried forward to the next CJP meeting.</p> <p>c) Poverty Plan</p> <p>The Poverty Working Group are currently consulting on the draft Poverty Plan. This plan is made up of 7 themes and contains 49 objectives. PV provided a brief overview of each of these themes. SK circulated a copy of this out to the partnership prior to this meeting. PV advised the partnership that the closing date for this online survey is the 26th September 2021.</p>	<p>SK/NM</p> <p>SK/NM</p>
8.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Friday 10th December 2021, 2pm – 4pm (MS Teams) - Postponed, to be rearranged for the end of January 2022.</p>	