

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE – 25 APRIL 2016

REPORT ON: COMMUNITY JUSTICE TRANSITION PLAN 2016-17

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 163-2016

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Bill was passed by Parliament on 11 February 2016. This report confirms the details of the Bill and outlines the key components of the local transition plan developed in the lead up to the implementation of the new national model for community justice, which will come into effect in April 2017.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

2.1.1 Note the statutory requirements placed on the defined set of community justice partners.

2.1.2 Notes the Dundee Community Planning Partnership Community Justice Transition Plan for 2016-17.

2.1.3 Instructs the Executive Director, Children and Families to submit a further report to Committee on the first local Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan which is due in December 2016.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Scottish Government has provided £50,000 per year to local authorities to support the transition up to 31 March 2018. Longer term funding arrangements are not yet known.

3.2 The Bill proposes that a new national body, Community Justice Scotland, will have responsibility for commissioning some national services and further work will be required in relation to the interface with locally commissioned services.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Background

4.1.1 From April 2017, Community Justice Authorities (CJAs) will cease to exist and a new national body, Community Justice Scotland, will be developed to provide strategic leadership, offer assurances to Ministers and COSLA through oversight of community justice performance and develop a hub for innovation, learning and development. The new body will be expected to collaborate with partners to develop a national vision, strategy and performance framework for implementation at a local level. In each area, a 'defined set of community justice partners' will annually prepare, implement and report on a plan to reduce re-offending. The statutory partners are:

- Local Authorities
- Health Boards
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Skills Development Scotland
- Integration Joint Boards
- Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service

- Scottish Ministers (including the Scottish Prison Service and Crown Office)
- 4.1.2 In July 2015, the Scottish Government asked Community Planning Partnerships to outline how they intend to take forward the new arrangements in the build up to the new model coming fully into effect. This included details of plans to build links with and between community justice partners; how communities, service users and the Third Sector would be involved in local arrangements; how arrangements would link with the wider CPP; and how they would ensure appropriate governance arrangements are in place.
- 4.1.3 As Transition Plans were required in advance of the national body being established, plans were written in the absence of the new national vision, strategy and performance framework. These are expected to be developed by the new national body in the second half of 2016. At this stage, the transition plans outline how CPPs intend to set the foundations between stakeholders, in terms of establishing governance arrangements, beginning to identify local priorities and preparing for the submission of the first Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan at the end of the year.

4.2 **Current Local Position**

- 4.2.1 Locally, the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) for 2013-17 already includes a strong focus on re-offending and strongly mirrors the Tayside CJA Area Plan for 2014-17. This was developed by the Community Safety Partnership which, apart from the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service and Skills Development Scotland, includes representation from most of the defined set of statutory partners.
- 4.2.2 Partners are also already implementing a local Prevention Framework which has a specific focus on reducing offending and re-offending. This involves a whole systems approach, through targeted preventative services focusing on people at risk, early intervention for people who have started to offend and more intensive recovery based interventions for people who commit more persistent and/or serious offences. Criminal Justice Social Work (CJSW), Police Scotland, Tayside NHS and third sector partners are co-located at Friarfield House to coordinate and deliver services within this model.
- 4.2.3 Since the introduction of Community Payback Orders (CPOs) in 2011, a number of initiatives have been implemented by partners and Dundee has been at the forefront of national developments. This has included pilot Fiscal Work Orders; the development of a Community Justice Centre for Women; an Intensive Support Programme for persistent offenders; an accredited programme for sex offenders; and a pilot Community Reintegration Programme for short-term prisoners. The service has also been involved in local Change Fund Public Social Partnerships (PSPs) which have focused on mentoring.
- 4.2.4 In the same period, there have been improvements in the proportion of people who have successfully completed community sentences or who have engaged with voluntary support on release from prison. Re-offending rates and re-offending frequency rates have reduced. Given the profile of some people subject to interventions in the criminal justice system, services also make a strong contribution to the wider Protecting People agenda, including Child Protection, Violence Against Women and Adult Support and Protection.

4.3 **Governance Arrangements**

- 4.3.1 In terms of governance arrangements, Elected Members have had oversight through both the CJA and the Social Work and Health Committee. In addition to reports on re-designing the community justice system, this has included annual reports on CPOs and MAPPA, along with reports on new initiatives such as the Community Justice Centre for Women. The Police, Fire and Community Safety Committee has had oversight of the Community Safety Partnership Annual Report, which focuses on the wider SOA Delivery Plan, including the services in place to reduce re-offending. CJSW has also developed strong working relationships with the Local Community Planning Partnerships, particularly in relation to unpaid work activities.

- 4.3.2 In order to implement the new model and build on current arrangements, the Community Safety Partnership has established a Reducing Re-offending Partnership sub-group. This consists of all the defined set of partners, along with representatives from the CJA. The partnership has developed a shared Transition Plan (attached as appendix 1), which will be progressed throughout 2016. There are also links to other partnerships to ensure a consistent approach towards related themes, including the CPP Coordinating Group, the Integrated Joint Board (IJB), the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) and neighbouring authorities in relation to shared services.
- 4.3.3 The additional funding is being used to part-fund a Planning Officer post based partly in the CJA and partly at Friarfield House. A strategic assessment of needs and engagement with the third sector are being progressed. The CPP will also engage with the wider community and service users on community justice in preparation for the next SOA from 2017.
- 4.3.4 The outcomes of this work will be outlined within the first full plan which is due in December 2016 and which will thereafter be reported on annually to both Elected Members and the new national body.
- 4.3.5 There are still some areas of concern in relation to the new national body specifically in relation to their powers to intervene in local arrangements, its interface with the statutory functions of the Chief Social Work Officer and Care Inspectorate and longer-term running costs. Partners will continue to liaise with the Scottish Government in these respects.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services were consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

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April 2016