



# New Model for Community Justice

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## Newsletter - Issue 1

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**Hello and welcome to the first newsletter for the New Model for Community Justice!**

This is the first in a series of newsletters for Community Justice partners and stakeholders to help keep them up-to-date with developments around the New Model for Community Justice. Please feel free to distribute this e-Bulletin to others that you think may be interested!

The newsletter will help draw attention to important developments in the New Model for Community Justice project, but we'd also like to know what information you'd like to see in future newsletters. So if you have any ideas or suggestions for content you'd like to see please feel free to send these to :

[Redesignofcommunityjustice@gov.scot](mailto:Redesignofcommunityjustice@gov.scot)

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## **The Community Justice Transition Year is here!**

Looking forward we can see that's it's going to be an incredibly busy, but exciting year ahead. The National Strategy and Outcomes, Performance & Improvement Framework are nearing completion and Guidance on the New Model is under development to support partners as they transition towards the New Model of Community Justice. Together, these three documents will be formally launched in October 2016 but draft versions will be available to partners for comment via the [Knowledge Hub](#) in due course.

### **Transition Event on 18th April**

As part of the transition process all local authority areas have submitted transition plans to the Scottish Government. These plans outline what partners will be doing together locally to prepare for the new model of Community Justice. Feedback on the plans and next steps will be discussed at the forthcoming Community Justice Transition event to be held at COSLA on 18th April 2016. Invitations have already been sent to all 32 Community Justice Transition leads, statutory partners for Community Justice and members of the Community Justice Redesign Transition working group.

This event will be the first in a series of meetings that the Transition Working Group will hold with Community Justice lead officers during the transition year. Future discussion topics will cover various elements of the redesign, including Community Justice Planning, the Outcomes, Performance & Improvement Framework and any other items that people wish to hear about or the project team would like to share.

### **Transitional Funding**

To support the transition, funding of £1.6m was agreed between Scottish Government and COSLA to support Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) during 2015/16 (amounting to £50K allocated to each CPP). As part of this funding agreement, the CPPs have been asked to feed back to Scottish Government on their use of this funding by May 2016. A further £1.6m has already been agreed as a continuation of this transition funding for 2016/17 and it is our intention to make this funding available for 2017/18, subject to budget-setting processes. Furthermore, Scottish Government is committed to working with COSLA to identify any future resourcing requirements to ensure a successful transition.

For more information regarding the transition workstream please contact - [Laura.Hoskins@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Hoskins@cosla.gov.uk)

For more information regarding the transition funding please contact - [Stephen.Harper@gov.scot](mailto:Stephen.Harper@gov.scot)

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## **Community Justice Bill Update**

After nine months of Parliamentary scrutiny and a great deal of hard work by the team; key partners; and stakeholders the Community Justice (Scotland) Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 11 February, and received Royal Assent on 21st March making it the Community Justice Act (2016)!

Upon Parliament's passing of the Bill, the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Paul Wheelhouse said:

*"Our vision for a fairer justice system in Scotland reflects the values of a modern progressive nation. We are working towards a position where prison sentences, and particularly short term sentences, could be used less frequently, with a stronger emphasis on effective community sentences to address the underlying causes of offending and being able to demonstrate their effectiveness to communities."*

### **Key elements of Bill as passed**

- Places the responsibility for local strategic planning, monitoring and delivery of community justice services with local community justice partners.
  - Creates a national body to provide leadership for the sector; enhanced opportunities for innovation, learning and development; provide professional independent assurance to Scottish Ministers and Local Government Leaders on the collective achievement of community justice outcomes across Scotland; and to provide improvement support where it is required.
  - Creates a focus on collaboration – including the opportunity to commission, manage or deliver services nationally where appropriate.
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If you would like to read the Bill in full you can here: [Community Justice \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

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## **Community Justice Scotland - Chair Vacancy Advertised**

Recruiting has begun for Community Justice Scotland starting with the vacancy for the chair of the new organisation, which is now advertised. The post is looking for an exceptional individual willing to help drive forward a new strategic direction for community justice in Scotland.

You can find details of the post, along with information on how to apply, by following the link below, the closing date for applications is **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016**:

[Chair Vacancy - Community Justice Scotland](#)

If you would like more information regarding the Community Justice Scotland vacancies please contact Cheryl Paris by email: [Cheryl.Paris@gov.scot](mailto:Cheryl.Paris@gov.scot)

## **Other News**

### **Electronic Monitoring**

The Electronic Monitoring Expert Working group continues to look at new uses and new technologies, in part informed by the Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research paper on international uses of Electronic Monitoring:

[Scottish and International Review of the Uses of Electronic Monitoring](#), by Dr Hannah Graham and Prof. Gill McIvor.

### **Presumption Against Short-Term Sentences:**

On 23 March, the Scottish Government published an analysis of the responses to the consultation on proposals to strengthen the presumption against short sentences. This analysis is available via the following link:

[Consultation on Proposals to Strengthen The Presumption Against Short Periods of Imprisonment: An Analysis of Responses](#)

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## **Useful Links**

[New Model for Community Justice - An Overview](#)

## [New Model for Community Justice - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

### [Community Justice Redesign Knowledge Hub](#)

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