

New Model for Community Justice

Newsletter - Issue 2

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

The newsletter is aimed at Community Justice partners and stakeholders to help keep them up-to-date with developments around the New Model for Community Justice, but you should 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 feel free to send your ideas and suggestions for the content you'd like to: Redesignofcommunityjustice@gov.scot



Key Community Justice Redesign documents available in draft!

Draft versions of the National Strategy for Community Justice, Outcomes, Performance & Improvement

Framework and Guidance for local partners are now available on the [Community Justice Redesign Knowledge Hub](#). These three documents provide a vision for community justice, tools to measure progress towards this vision and guidance to help partners work together effectively under the new model.

These documents are being made available to partners in draft to assist with their planning for the first Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan. They will be subject to further design work over the summer before the final versions are formally launched at a national event on **24th November 2016**. All three documents will also be officially published on the Scottish Government website at this time.

The National Strategy for Community Justice

The strategy provides a shared vision for community justice in Scotland. It sets out the main priorities for achieving this vision and evidence-based improvement actions to make progress against the community justice outcomes set out in the OPI Framework. This will help partners collaborate effectively to drive improvement through an approach which is both outcomes-focused and evidence-based.

There is a statutory duty on partners to have regard to this strategy while preparing their community justice outcomes improvement plans.

The Outcomes, Performance and Improvement (OPI) Framework

The OPI Framework provides community justice partners and Community Justice Scotland with a set of national outcomes and indicators to measure progress against and drive consistent improvement. It provides transparency by linking local decisions and actions to an analysis of the communities' needs and the evidence of what works to achieve improved outcomes. It will also allow community justice partners and Community Justice Scotland to report on achievements as well as identify issues and blockages.

Guidance for local partners in the new model for Community Justice

This guidance is intended to support the community justice partners, statutory and non-statutory, and other stakeholders to understand their roles in delivering the New Model for Community Justice.

Importantly, Chapter Six of the Guidance is statutory as it outlines the steps that partners **must** follow in the development of their plans.

Launch Event

The Strategy, OPI Framework and guidance will all be officially launched at an event on **24th November 2016** in Pollock Halls, Edinburgh. Further information will be sent out in due course. Please save the date!

Note - To access the documents you will need to create a Knowledge Hub account if you do not already have one, which you can do by following this [link](#). After creating your account search the Hub for the group 'Community Justice Redesign: Scotland' and join this to access the community justice documents in the 'Forum' section.

Alternatively, if you already have Knowledge Hub account you can access the documents directly by following this [link](#).

For more information regarding any of the above please contact Redesignofcommunityjustice@gov.scot

Extra £4 million for community sentences

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Michael Matheson has announced an additional £4 million in extra funding for community sentences. The money will support local community justice and voluntary sector partners to increase the use of community sentences as part of the Scottish Government's drive to reduce reoffending.

This additional investment underlines the Government's commitment to move away from ineffective short term prison sentences towards robust community alternatives. Speaking at Clydesmill Fire Station Community Garden, Mr Matheson said;

"Community sentences are a vital part of our bold approach to reduce the number of people in Scottish prisons. We have one of the highest imprisonment rates of any country in Western Europe and one of my main priorities in this next Parliament is to make more effective use of community alternatives rather than short prison sentences."

You can read the full article on Scottish Government website by following this [link](#).



Community Justice Scotland update

The recruitment for Community Justice Scotland continues with interviews having recently been completed for the posts of Chair and Chief Executive. Together these posts will have responsibility to ensure that the body delivers upon its remit as well as promote community justice interests and values. Successful candidates will be announced in due course.

In the meantime, scoping work to find accommodation for the new national body is also underway and

recruitment for Board Members positions is expected to commence later in the autumn.

The new body, Community Justice Scotland, will be established in a shadow capacity on October 2016 and will be fully operational from April 2017. Community Justice Scotland will work closely with community justice partners, the Third Sector and a range of other parties to provide support, independent assurance and leadership for community justice.

Guidance for CJA's issued

The first version of the Guidance on dis-establishment of the Community Justice Authorities (CJAs) was issued by the Scottish Government on 1 July. The Guidance has been prepared at the request of CJA Convenors and developed by a Working Group which comprises of representatives from Scottish Government, CJAs and COSLA.

The Guidance is for use by CJAs and other relevant organisations to ensure a common understanding of tasks, responsibilities, risks and timescales for all concerned so that the dis-establishment of the CJAs takes place in a co-ordinated and effective way.

This version of the Guidance sets out the key tasks and associated timelines for dis-establishment, as well as arrangements for the monitoring of progress. The next version, due in the autumn, will also include the financial and performance reporting requirements linked to the dis-establishment of the CJAs

For more information on this guidance – redesignofcommunityjustice@gov.scot

Other News

Electronic Monitoring Working Group update

The Electronic Monitoring in Scotland expert Working Group recently submitted its report to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Michael Matheson, on the future direction of Electronic monitoring in Scotland last month. The Cabinet secretary will respond to the recommendations within this report in due course setting out his vision for how this important community sentence can be used to support the continued reduction in reoffending.

EU research findings on use of Electronic Monitoring

Since May 2014 the Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research and the University of Stirling have been working with academics from five Universities across Europe; Germany, Scotland, England & Wales, Belgium and the Netherlands to consider the *Creativity and effectiveness in the use of electronic monitoring as an alternative to imprisonment in EU member states*. This comparative research is the first of its kind in Europe and the findings from this research will play an important part in informing the future of electronic monitoring in Scotland.

You can view the Scottish report, along with the other resources from the research, by following this [link](#).

Consultation on Strategic Police Priorities

The Scottish Government is reviewing the Strategic Police Priorities set under the [Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2012](#). Once agreed, these Priorities will set the strategic direction for Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority, making the link between Scottish Government's [national outcomes](#) and operational policing activity.

The consultation is open for responses until 16 August 2016. More information on the consultation and details of how to respond be accessed [here](#).

Useful Links

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

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

[Community Justice Redesign: Scotland - Knowledge Hub](#)

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