

# East Lothian Partnership

**REPORT TO:** EAST LOTHIAN PARTNERSHIP

**MEETING DATE:** 20th January 2016

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services)

**SUBJECT:** Community Justice Redesign Update

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on Community Justice redesign in East Lothian.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That East Lothian Partnership:

- 2.1 Notes progress in relation to establishing a Reducing Reoffending Group to act as a Planning and Delivery Group with senior officer representation from a range of partners.
- 2.2 Notes that the Safe and Vibrant Communities Partnership will take on the role of 'Reducing Reoffending Board' from 2016/17 onward (as a 'Shadow Board' during 2016/17) and that discussion took place at the November meeting of the S&VCP as to changes required re the S&VCP's role and membership.
- 2.3 Agrees that a draft Community Justice Transition Plan will be produced and circulated to East Lothian Partnership members at the earliest possible opportunity. A final draft will then be signed off by the East Lothian Partnership Chair and Vice Chair towards the end of January / early February.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The forthcoming Community Justice (Scotland) Bill will introduce changes to Community Justice arrangements in Scotland, whereby Community Justice Authorities will cease to exist and responsibility for community justice will be transferred to Community Planning Partnerships, with a range of partner organisations sharing a statutory duty to contribute to reducing reoffending.

- 3.2 At its October 2015 meeting, East Lothian Partnership agreed to new arrangements proposed for community justice in East Lothian. These proposals included the Safe & Vibrant Communities Partnership taking on the role of Reducing Reoffending Board, as well as the setting up of a Reducing Reoffending Group to act as planning and delivery group for a local Community Justice Strategic Plan (full details including the role and remit of both the Reducing Reoffending Board and are Group are contained in the report at Appendix 1).
- 3.3 The report to the October ELP meeting also noted the requirement for ELP to submit a Transition Plan to the Scottish Government by the end of January 2016, detailing how it intends to take forward arrangements for the strategic planning and delivery of community justice in East Lothian (again full details of what it required in relation to the Transition Plan are contained at Appendix1).
- 3.4 A meeting of the Safe and Vibrant Communities Partnership in November 2015 agreed that the S&VCP would take on the role of Reducing Reoffending Board and would extend its membership as necessary. It was also agreed that business related to the reducing reoffending remit would be dealt with in the first half of S&VCP meetings and that those not involved in the S&VCP's wider remit would not be required to stay for the duration of the meeting.
- 3.5 Work has continued on the transition process since the October meeting. A Policy Officer has now been appointed who will play a lead role in the transition arrangements. Work is also underway to establish the Reducing Reoffending Group which will have its first meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016. An outline has also been produced for ELP's Community Transition Plan and a draft of the Plan will be circulated to partners for information / comment as soon as possible. The main elements of the Transition Plan have already been discussed and agreed by partners, so it is anticipated that developing a final draft should be fairly straightforward. A final Transition Plan should be ready to be signed off by the East Lothian Partnership Chair / Vice Chair and submitted to the Scottish Government by the end of January / early February.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Bill is aimed at ensuring community planning partners work effectively in partnership to deliver improved outcomes for community justice. The new legislation requires East Lothian Partnership to establish the necessary structures and governance arrangements to facilitate this change.

#### **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

## 6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – The Scottish Government has approved £50,000 per annum ring-fenced funding to each local authority to financially assist the transition to the new model for community justice as part of the Local Government Financial Settlement for 2015/16. It is intended that this funding should be available for three years, ending 2017/18, although this is subject to the outcome of the next UK Spending Review.
- 6.2 Personnel – a temporary Policy Officer has been recruited using the Scottish Government funding described above – they will take a lead role in the transition process.
- 6.3 Other – none

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Appendix 1: Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland, East Lothian Partnership 7 October 2015
- 7.2 [Community Justice Redesign Update – Establishment of Reducing Reoffending Group, Safe & Vibrant Communities Partnership, 23 November 2015](#)
- 7.3 [Community Justice Redesign Consultation, Safe & Vibrant Community Partnership, 26 May 2014](#)

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<b>DATE</b>	07 January 2016

## East Lothian Partnership

**REPORT TO:** EAST LOTHIAN PARTNERSHIP

**MEETING DATE:** 7 October 2015

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services)

**SUBJECT:** Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland

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### **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The report provides background to the future model for Community Justice in Scotland and recommends a number of steps that are required to ensure that new arrangements are in place in East Lothian within the required timescales.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the East Lothian Partnership:

- 2.1 Agrees to establish a Reducing Reoffending Group to act as the Planning and Delivery Group with senior officer representation from the organisations listed in paragraph 3.2 and a role and remit as outlined in paragraph 3.7.
- 2.2 Agrees that the Safe and Vibrant Communities Partnership take on the role of 'Reducing Reoffending Board' from 2016/17 onward (a 'Shadow Board' during 2016/17) and its role be amended as outlined in paragraph 3.8 and its membership be extended to include additional representation from the bodies detailed in the legislation (see Appendix 1)
- 2.3 Notes that the Scottish Government funding to support Community Justice transition arrangements is being used to fund a temporary Community Justice Policy Officer post and part fund the Partnership Data Analyst post.
- 2.4 Notes that a Community Justice Transition Plan and draft Strategic Plan will be prepared and approved by the Safe & Vibrant Communities Partnership.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Bill proposes a new model for Community Justice. Community Justice Authorities (CJAs) will cease to exist and responsibility for

community justice matters will be transferred to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs).

- 3.2 Under the proposed model, a range of partners will have a statutory duty to actively contribute to reducing reoffending – the identified core partners include the local authority, health board, Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Skills Development Scotland, Integrated Joint Boards, the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service, the Scottish Prison Service. The new model will also involve the establishment of a national body, Community Justice Scotland.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that responsibilities will be fully transferred from CJAs to CPPs by April 2017, with a ‘transition year’ during 2016/17.
- 3.4 CPPs will be expected to submit a Transition Plan to the Scottish Government by the end of January 2016, detailing how they intend to take forward arrangements for the strategic planning and delivery of community justice in their area. They will also be expected to make their plans for 2016/17 available to the Scottish Government for comment by the same date (when finalised these will form the 2016/17 East Lothian Community Justice Annual Strategic Plan).
- 3.5 Transition Plans will be expected to cover:
  - (a) How Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) plan to build links with and between community justice partners
  - (b) How CPPs plan to involve the Third Sector, service users, people with convictions and communities in their local arrangements, planning and delivery
  - (c) How CPPs intend to work with CJAs to ensure that community justice issues that the CJA leads on are picked up, where appropriate, by the relevant CPPs in 2016/17
  - (d) What the local governance arrangements will be for Community Justice, including accountability lines, from 2016/17
  - (e) Which organisations and individuals will be involved across the statutory and non-statutory and community sectors from 2016/17
  - (f) How the new local Community Justice arrangements will link into the wider CPP and how links will be made from broader community planning themes to the community justice agenda and vice versa
  - (g) How partner resources will be leveraged to support change and innovation locally making the most effective use of transition funding (see under Resource Implications below for details of funding)
- 3.6 East Lothian Partnership needs to agree how the new arrangements for community justice should be developed in East Lothian. It is proposed that consideration be given to establishing a Reducing Reoffending Group as part of the wider East Lothian Partnership. The Reducing Reoffending Group would report to quarterly meetings of the Safe & Vibrant Communities Partnership (S&VCP) and annually to the East

Lothian Partnership. The Reducing Reoffending Group will include senior officers from relevant organisations as outlined in paragraph 3.2.

- 3.7 The remit of the Reducing Reoffending Group would be to act as a Planning and Delivery Group carrying out the following activities:
- Producing a Local Offending Profile
  - Developing an Annual Strategic Plan for community justice in East Lothian
  - Monitoring the delivery of the Annual Strategic Plan and reporting performance to the S&VCP.
- 3.8 The S&VCP would have the formal role of ‘Reducing Reoffending Board’ from 2016/17 onward (although its status would be a ‘Shadow Board’ during 2016/17, with the CJA still playing a formal year during this shadow year). A number of roles related to community justice would be added to the S&VCP’s remit including:
- Signing off the Local Offending Profile,
  - Signing off the Annual Strategic Plan for community justice in East Lothian
  - Scrutinising performance in accordance to the national performance framework to established for community justice.
- 3.9 The membership of the S&VCP would need to be extended to include representation from additional organisations as required in the Scottish Government draft proposals – details can be found at Appendix 1 below.
- 3.10 The Scottish Government has approved £50,000 per annum ring fenced funding to each local authority to assist with the transition to the new model for community justice. East Lothian Council has approved the use of this funding to create a temporary Policy Officer (Community Justice) Post. The post holder will work alongside the policy officers who support the East Lothian Partnership thereby helping to ensure that the transition arrangements for community justice are aligned with the broader East Lothian Partnership and Single Outcome Agreement. Part of the Scottish Government funding will also be used to part fund the Partnership Data Analyst post to support the development of the Local Offending Profile.
- 3.11 Local arrangements will also have to reflect the National Strategy for Community Justice and National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework which are currently being developed by the Scottish Government.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Bill is aimed at ensuring that community planning partners work effectively in partnership to deliver improved outcomes for community justice. The new legislation requires East Lothian Partnership to establish the necessary structures and governance arrangements to facilitate this change.

## 5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

## 6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – The Scottish Government has approved £50,000 per annum ring-fenced funding to each local authority to financially assist the transition to the new model for community justice as part of the Local Government Financial Settlement for 2015/16. It is intended that this funding should be available for three years, ending 2017/18, although this is subject to the outcome of the next UK Spending Review.
- 6.2 Personnel – see 3.10 above.
- 6.3 Other – none

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 [Community Justice Redesign Consultation, Safe & Vibrant Community Partnership, 26 May 2014](#)

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**Appendix 1: Safe & Vibrant Communities Partnership – Extended Membership**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Required as part of Community Justice Model</b>	<b>Existing Member?</b>
East Lothian Council	Elected members x 4 Depute Chief Executive Service Manager for CJ	Yes – local authority representation required, but not specific roles / numbers required	Yes Yes No
Police Scotland	Chief Superintendent	Yes	Yes
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	East & Midlothian Manager	Yes	Yes
Lothian and Borders Community Justice Authority	Chief Officer	Yes (for shadow year)	Yes
STRiVE	Depute Chief Executive	No	Yes
NHS Lothian	Consultant in Public Health	Yes	Yes
Association of East Lothian Councils	Committee Member	No	Yes
East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel	Executive Committee Member	No	Yes
Scottish Prison Service	To be confirmed	Yes	No
Alcohol & Drug Partnership	To be confirmed	Yes	No
Skills Development Scotland	To be confirmed	Yes	No
Scottish Court Service	To be confirmed	Yes	No