



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

**1pm – 3pm, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, hosted on MS Teams**

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**Partnership Members Present:**

Neil Mitchell (NM), Police Scotland - Area Commander, (Chair)  
Iain Gorman (IG), H&SCP - Head of Operations, (Vice Chair)  
Judith Tait (JT), ELC – Head of Children’s Services & CSWO  
David Abernethy (DA), Scottish Prison Service - Governor, Edinburgh Prison  
Martin Bonnar (MB), MELDAP - Service Manager  
Caitlin McCorry (CMC), ELC - Connected Communities Service Manager  
Lynsey Davidson (LD) – Skills Development Scotland (SDS)  
Maureen Allan (MA), Chief Officer - Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL)  
Trish Carlyle (TC), H&SCP – General Manager  
Julie Morton (JM), ELC - Justice Social Work Services  
Ciara Webb (CW), ELC – Justice Social Work Services  
Nicky Sandford (NS), ELC – Housing Options Team  
Sharon Saunders (SS), ELC - Head of Communities & Partnerships  
Alannah Juchniewicz (AJ), Police Scotland - Community Liaison Officer  
David Girrity (DG), Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  
Kirsty MacDiarmid, Public Protection Team Manager  
Gavin Philips (GP), SACRO

**Others in Attendance**

Stephanie Kerr (SK), ELC - Community Justice Coordinator  
Justine Sharp (JS), ELC – Justice Social Work Services (Minute Taker)

**Apologies:**

Jim Goodfellow (JG), ELC - Councillor  
Fiona O’Donnell (FoD), ELC – Councillor

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Item No.		Action by
1.	<p><b>Introductions and apologies</b>                      NM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.</p>	
2 a)	<p><b>Actions from previous meeting</b>                      Most actions complete. Outstanding actions were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For NS (Nicky Sandford) to speak to Jon Turvill (Clinical Director of H&amp;SCP) re the role of public health in the GRRR workstream (carried over from January 2020).                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JT suggested NS speak to Iain Gorman instead of Jon Turvill</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. SDS and QMU to develop a shared programme of works.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>9. Agree who will own and manage the CJ Twitter account.</li> <li>10. Evaluate TRANSFORM and CONNECT.</li> <li>13. Development of a youth justice strategy.</li> <li>14. Using the £4000 funding to possibly create a short promotional video about the partnership.</li> <li>18. Draft LOIP - service mapping detail to be added to VCELS website.</li> <li>20. Monitor releases from remand without a service (Scope – 6 months).</li> </ol> <p>December meeting minutes were agreed as an accurate record.</p>	<p>NS</p> <p>LD (taken over from EM) - To be kept as an action.</p> <p>JT - To be kept as an action.</p> <p>CMC/JM/CW</p> <p>NM/JT</p> <p>NM/JT - To be kept as an action.</p> <p>CMC/SK/NM/ME</p> <p>SK - To remain as an action.</p> <p>JT</p>
3.	<p><b>Equally Safe Priority 4</b></p> <p>NM introduced KMacD, Public Protection Team Manager, to the meeting. She began this role in September 2020 and hoped to strengthen the links between the Public Protection Office and the CJ Partnership. KMacD talked about Equally Safe Priority 4: Men desist from all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response. This item is a part of the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection VAWG improvement plan. The report for this was completed by the VAWG Coordinator. SK had circulated this report prior to this meeting. KMacD summarised what the four strategic priorities were and how the VAWG delivery group have managed to deliver this so far. She expressed that they would like support from the CJ Partnership to bring this item into the wider community. KMacD proposed that the CJ Partnership</p>	

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<p>4.</p>	<p>took the lead on delivering Priority 4 on behalf of the VAWG delivery sub-group. Priority 4 could also be incorporated into the three workstreams. NM felt that the CJ Partnership should not have sole responsibility for the leadership of Priority 4, but instead this item should be equally delivered across the three workstreams. On behalf of the partnership, he agreed commitment to consider this further. KMacD, VC, JM, SK, and the workstream leads (AJ/NS/CMC/CWO) are to meet and discuss this item further.</p> <p>DA raised that there will be a change in approach to programmes in the SPS over the coming months. These are currently being delivered by prison psychologists and prison officers. They are looking to introduce a more generic programme, which shall be piloted over the next 12-14 months. DA offered to have a further discussion with KMacD regarding Priority 4.</p> <p>NM thanked KMacD for her presentation, and welcomed her to stay for the rest of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Update from partners focusing on supportive measures we can put in place for the next 6 months of Covid (Covid Impact Assessment)</b></p> <p><b><u>Scottish Prison Service</u></b> DA updated that they had learned a lot from the previous lockdown. Throughout the first lockdown, they adapted to work on a socially distanced based routine: work hours were from 7am to 5pm, staff groupings were reduced, and only core business staff (housekeeping, kitchen staff) were based in the prison. Face-to-face prison visits were postponed, and were replaced by virtual calls. In April/May last year there was a reduction in remands. As a result of the Covid restrictions, those who were on remand, were held for around 14/15 months. DA confirmed that the restrictive regime did not have a negative effect as such on the prisoners' mental health, but rather the opposite. Covid restrictions also provided SPS with the opportunity to make greater use of electronic monitoring, which in turn, helped to reduce prison numbers. This time around they have learned to maintain the Government rules, to make better use of PPE and to improve communication on transition.</p> <p><b><u>Substance Misuse</u></b> MB updated that the previous lockdown did not have any impact on the availability of drugs. Their services continue to operate from the Esk Centre following Government guidance. They have learned that the service was not easy to deliver via video platforms.</p> <p><b><u>Justice Services</u></b> JM updated that during the previous lockdown, Justice Services did what they needed to continue providing the service. They concentrated on the most vulnerable/at risk, as well as their high risk clients. They are currently running on a backlog of outstanding unpaid work hours. JM explained that they are awaiting an update from COPFS regarding these hours. The biggest issue they face, due to Covid, will be the number of backlogged cases that shall come through once the courts open back up.</p> <p>Despite the circumstances, JM feels that the department are ahead of the curve. They have been fortunate enough to be able to implement ideas which will help to carry out tasks differently. These ideas shall also help them to plan what will/will not work in the future.</p>	<p>KMacD/VC/JM/SK &amp; workstream leads (AJ/NS/CMC/CW).</p> <p>DA/KMacD</p>
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**Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

DG confirmed that the Scottish Fire and Rescue service continues to respond and provide a range of services aligned to Scottish government COVID restrictions and guidance. They have continued to communicate with partners, as well as provide and receive referrals. In order to continue providing an operational response, they are currently using a call filtering process. Due to Covid restrictions, one vehicle has been sent to callouts, rather than the previous three. They have tried to ensure that staff are not crossing paths, unless it is necessary.

DG explained that they are focusing on community engagement – possibly looking at more virtual presentations. They received strong positive feedback from schools regarding their bonfire presentations. Fire starter intervention courses are currently on hold, due to the restrictions. However, they are considering delivering these courses virtually. The Scottish Fire and Rescue service have also been supporting the Scottish Ambulance service, by providing additional drivers.

**SACRO**

GP stated that the majority of their work related to domestic abuse cases and there had been a rise in the number people resorting to prostitution. An increase in referrals were received for the 'New Routes' service. They also noted a rise in the number of offenders who were released from prison early as part of the emergency release scheme. Despite the escalation in numbers, engagement levels between staff and clients dropped. Staff were provided with as much flexibility as possible, in order to continue carrying out services throughout lockdown. GP stated that their biggest challenge was providing residential services. Face-to-face contact has since been resumed for some of their more essential services, and will continue to be reinstated wherever SACRO believe is safe to do so. Arrangements for MAPPAs meetings need to be assessed by a manager.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sector - VCEL**

MA updated that, since lockdown, VCEL had requests from the Scottish Government for volunteer detail and to look at the duplication of services locally. The local Covid vaccination programme is due to begin very soon. £500,000 funding is expected to be released for the voluntary sector around June/July time. VCEL are currently looking at putting together a local community task force. They have continued to offer training courses/inductions and support to clients using various media platforms.

**Connected Communities**

CMC updated that the Connected Communities team continue to find ways to deliver youth work differently and have maintained a level of service and engagement with young people offering outreach programmes outdoors, and online.

MYPAS have delivered a variety of support/services online. This appears to be the main way to engage with young people during this difficult time. Although, there is scope for limited face to face engagement once the restrictions have been relaxed. MYPAS and Education Service have recently received a considerable amount of funding to go towards supporting the mental health of children & young people.

5.	<p><b>Skills Development Scotland</b> LD confirmed that all Careers Centres are currently closed as a result of the lockdown. They have continued to keep in contact with young people virtually. In January, SDS launched their national case helpline.</p> <p><b>Childrens Wellbeing</b> JT updated that they have continued face-to-face contacts with clients. As a result of these uncertain times, judgements are constantly being made on the best way to deliver the service. Despite working well together as a service during these circumstances, this has not entirely helped with issues such as isolation.</p> <p>NM mentioned that there had been significant issues with youth disorder in the first lockdown, eg. local youths socially gathering in their hundreds, going against government guidelines. Reports of more than 500 Nitrous Oxide canisters found at Longniddry bents had also raised concerns.</p> <p><b>Updates from Workstream Leads</b></p> <p>a. Getting it Right to Reduce Reoffending NS informed the partnership that there was neither any major issues to report or additional support required. Since lockdown began last year, the workstream finally met for the first time on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. A lot of discussion took place between the various group members. NS confirmed that the two new staff members (the Prevention Officer and Tenancy Support Officer) are now working in post. They shall begin working with the multi-agency release planning group as of next week (w/c 1<sup>st</sup> February). The Housing Needs Assessment is currently being updated. This is due to be revised and circulated to both the workstream and the partnership in March.</p> <p>b. Early Intervention &amp; Prevention</p> <p>Unfortunately AJ had to leave the meeting before she could provide an update in person. She emailed NM a brief update to share with the attendees. The workstream had their first meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January. It was agreed that Covid has continued to be an issue for providing certain services. However, some services have continued to work remotely, or have engaged with young people either online or over the phone. There have been six youth mental health workers appointed to the local high schools. After receiving a large number of referrals, they have been supporting young people either on the phone or online.</p> <p>All partners have been asked to provide a list of services and activities that are available to support young people, which could be posted on social media. This will help to not only make the young people aware, but also themselves, as to what is on offer.</p> <p>AJ had attended a mental health &amp; wellbeing meeting yesterday (Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January). During this meeting, 12 projects were awarded funding from the pandemic response fund. AJ is currently waiting to find out which projects these were, and if there are any that could be utilised by the workstream.</p>	
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	<p>The partners have been thinking about life after lockdown, and how they can continue to support young people and prevent them from becoming involved in the Criminal Justice system. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.</p> <p>c. Community Engagement CMC asked if partnership members could spare some time to have a look through the newly updated Community Engagement website. She would welcome any feedback/suggestions regarding improving the site. SK shall circulate the website link to the partnership members. CMC confirmed that Ciara Webb (CW) has begun working as co-lead on this workstream.</p> <p>JM updated that Justice Services had been permitted to work with Street Cones to address the current backlog of Unpaid Work hours. Street Cones are a drama and theatre workshop based in the West of Scotland. They provide workshops for groups of 8-10 people, in which a script is developed. The script would start on the steps of a Court and then a short film would be developed around this. Facilitators will work with service users to develop the script using lived experience. This film, in turn, could then be used to promote the service. It will also tie in with community engagement and will count towards unpaid work hours. CW will send SK the link to the Glasgow CJP Street Cones video to circulate with the minutes.</p> <p>A further meeting is to be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the plans in more detail. DA agreed that the film Street Cones did with the Glasgow CJP was great. He had also been lucky enough to work with the Street Cones staff when he was at Low Moss.</p> <p>NM enquired about an update from the Champions Board. JT informed him that QMU had supported the Champions Board with the three films they had made about their experiences of education, housing and mental health services. NM will contact Lisa for a further update regarding the Champions Board.</p> <p>CMC updated that they are currently unable to progress further with obtaining the help of QMU students to create a promotional partnership video as the funding must be spent by March. This may be something for the workstream to consider in the future. Further discussion is to be held regarding the video.</p>	<p>CW/SK</p> <p>NM</p> <p>CMC/SK/NM/ME</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Transition (prison release multi agency group)</b></p> <p>Transition is a multi-agency approach to supporting individuals being released from prison and was initially developed in response to the early release scheme. The primary purpose of Transition is to develop a co-ordinated plan for an individual's release from a custodial sentence which is based on inter-agency information sharing.</p> <p>Transition aim to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a coordinated service to East Lothian residents who are due to be released from prison, so the individual's needs are met in the days following release.</li> <li>• To reduce the risk of immediate re-offending following release from custody by supporting people to participate in their release planning with a particular focus on housing/access to funds/social supports.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>All service users will be allocated a key worker who will co-ordinate support pre- and post-release. Service users will be offered appropriate and individualised support to minimise the risk of re-offending and to protect potential victims. Key workers will make sure all prison leavers who have served a custodial sentence are provided with suitable accommodation on their day of release. Service users will be encouraged to start their benefit claims prior to their day of release to ensure timely access to funds. Key workers will also ensure that essential appointments relating to the physical/mental health are in place prior to release from prison. If support for substance misuse is required, this must be in place within three days from release.</p> <p>SPS currently provides information to Justice Services which enables them to track individuals from their initial remand/sentencing to potential/definite release dates. The group will comprise of representatives with delegated information sharing and decision making authority from stakeholder agencies and be chaired by the representative from Justice Social Work. GP suggested the possible identification of a mentor involved with New Routes who could attend the Transition meetings.</p> <p>The proposal for this service has been written, and awaiting to be formalised. JM noted that the representative for Police Scotland was still to be confirmed. The group shall run for six months, and will then be subject to review.</p> <p>NM thanked JM and the team for all their hard work in order to create the group.</p>	JM
7.	<p><b>Community Justice Finance</b></p> <p>No update given - to be discussed at the next CJP meeting.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Community Justice Data</b></p> <p>No update given - to be discussed at the next CJP meeting.</p>	
9.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><b>a. Operation Juneau Debrief</b></p> <p>NM chaired the debrief last week. This initiative was, itself, a learning curve for the team. Following the success of Juneau, Police Scotland are already planning another similar operation to be rolled out later this year. A new East Lothian multi-agency strategic drugs taskforce is also due to be set up in March.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, 2pm-4pm.</p>	