



Briefing: Community Justice Redesign: Transition Plan

From 2017-18 responsibility for strategic planning and delivery of community justice will transfer from the eight Community Justice Authorities (CJA) to Community Planning Partnerships (CPP). The new arrangements use CPPs as the vehicle to bring partner organisations together to plan and deliver community justice outcomes. Criminal Justice Social Work remains accountable to and subject to the governance by the organisational arrangements which accommodate Social Work Services within each local authority.

Community Justice is defined by the Scottish Government as *“the collection of agencies and services in Scotland that individually and in partnership work to manage offenders, prevent offending and reduce reoffending and the harm it causes, to promote social inclusion, citizenship and desistance”*. Outcomes for Community Justice will be supported by effective local planning and delivery of services by a range of partners in the public and third sector.

Currently there is a formal strategic and operational partnership between West Dunbartonshire, Argyll and Bute, and East Dunbartonshire Councils. They share a single strategic partnership manager, single budget, and deliver common outcomes within a joint planning and performance framework, commissioning strategy and report to a joint committee with delegated powers. These arrangements have been in place since 2002.

In order to ensure as smooth as possible transition to the new model local authorities are required to submit a transition plan setting out how they plan to manage this process over 2016-17. The plan has to be submitted by 31st January 2016. The Criminal Justice Partnership authorities have been working together to create the transition plan, drawing on the experience of inter-authority partnership and creating efficiencies for partner agencies in terms of consistency. The plan has been drawn up and is due to be considered at the relevant committees and groups within partner authorities in mid -December.

The partnership authorities have pooled transition funding allocated by the Scottish Government in order to derive maximum benefit in terms of resourcing a post to drive matters forward and to support local partnership working and consultation initiatives.

Preparatory work for the transition is being undertaken between the criminal justice social work partnership and officers from the respective Community Planning Partnerships. The Criminal Justice Partnership Committee are also involved in the development of transitional planning arrangements. A consultation event was held on 30th October 2015 bringing together statutory partners and third sector representatives. The transition plan reflects the issues raised at that event. Further consultation is planned both individually and collectively with partners to further develop the potential for the new model to extend and strengthen the value and benefit of collaboration across a number of issues.

In the course of transition there will be a focus on the establishment of links between community justice statutory partners and with the Third Sector, service users and communities. The plan also addresses governance and accountability and how most effective use will be made of the transition funding offered to local authorities to support the process.

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