
To: Leadership Board

On: 17 February 2016

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Renfrewshire Community Justice Transitions Plan 2016/17

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Community Justice (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 7 May 2015, to take forward the legislative change needed to establish the new community justice model in Scotland.
- 1.2. The new model seeks to reduce reoffending through the co-ordinated responses of a range of defined agencies, including Local Authorities, to work with criminal justice service users. The local multi-agency partnership will be required to develop its own strategic plan and performance will be measured against a national quality assurance framework.
- 1.3. A number of community planning partners referred to in the Bill as statutory community justice partners will be responsible for working together to publish a community justice outcomes improvement plan from 2017 onwards. As such Community Planning Partnerships are to be central to the new community justice arrangements. These arrangements will commence on 1 April 2016 with a shadow year, with full responsibility from 1 April 2017 when Community Justice Authorities are disestablished. In the interim North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority will continue to submit their Area Plan progress reports to the Scottish Government.
- 1.4. Locally, community justice partners were required to prepare and submit a transition plan to the Scottish Government by the end of January 2016 covering the shadow year. In consultation with the Community Justice Steering Group the Renfrewshire Community Justice Transition Plan 2016/17 has been developed and is detailed in Appendix 1. This Plan was agreed at the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board on 9 December 2015 and was submitted to Scottish Government for the 31 January 2016 deadline.

- 1.5. No additional resources are being provided to fund interventions, although transition funding of £50,000 to 31 March 2018 is available to develop the new arrangements.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Leadership Board is asked to note the Renfrewshire Transitions Plan 2016/17 as detailed in Appendix 1.
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3. Background

- 3.1. On 7th May 2015, the Community Justice (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament, to take forward the legislative change needed to establish the new community justice model in Scotland. This builds on the Scottish Government's response to the Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland Consultation, published on 15th December 2014.
- 3.2. The Bill provides the legislative framework for the proposed changes to the community justice arrangements in Scotland, as follows:
- Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) are to be central to the new arrangements: the focus will be on delivering community solutions to the issues of reducing re-offending and offender management.
 - Statutory Community Justice Partners will assume responsibility under the new model from 1 April 2016, with full responsibility being conferred from 1 April 2017. Community Justice Authorities (CJAs) will be formally disestablished on 31 March 2017. Statutory Community Justice Partners include Local Authorities; Health Boards; Police Scotland; Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS); Skills Development Scotland; Integration Joint Boards (IJBs); the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service; and Scottish Ministers (in practice, the Scottish Prison Service). However, Local community justice partnerships may choose to include, by agreement, non-statutory Community Justice Partners in their partnership and planning process. This would allow the inclusion of the Third Sector, Housing Associations and other community bodies.
 - A transition plan for the shadow year was submitted to Scottish Government in January 2016 as requested. In the future, community justice partners will be required to prepare and publish a local plan to deliver improved outcomes for community justice in their area and to report annually on progress.
- 3.3. In preparing the community justice outcomes improvement plan, the statutory Community Justice Partners must have regard to:
- the National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework
 - the National Strategy for Community Justice

- any local outcomes improvement plan produced by the CPP under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 currently in force for the Local Authority area
 - local needs and circumstances
- 3.4. The national body, Community Justice Scotland, will be established in the latter part of 2016/17. The emphasis is on a non-hierarchical, mutually supportive relationship between Community Justice Scotland and local areas. Notwithstanding this, the new national body will have an assurance function. This body will be tasked with setting the vision for community justice and reducing reoffending in Scotland. There will also be a communication function, championing community justice services in an effort to raise their profile and highlight their contribution.
- 3.5. The Scottish Government will develop a national framework for outcomes, performance and improvement, jointly with key partners and stakeholders. It is against this framework that community justice partners will be expected to plan and report.
- 3.6. Following consultation with stakeholders, the Scottish Government released details of what should be included within the transition plan:
- How CPPs plan to build links with and between community justice partners
 - How CPPs plan to involve the Third Sector, service users, people with convictions, and communities in their local arrangements, planning and delivery in 2016/17
 - How CPPs intend to work with CJAs to ensure that community justice issues that are led on by CJAs are picked up, where appropriate, by the relevant CPPs in 2016/17
 - Looking to 2016/17 and beyond, what the local governance arrangements will be for:
 - community justice, including accountability lines
 - which organisations and individuals will be involved across the statutory, non-statutory and community sectors
 - how community justice arrangements will link into the wider CPP
 - how links will be made from broader community planning themes to the community justice agenda and vice versa;
 - How partner resources will be leveraged to support change and innovation locally, making the most effective use of transition funding.
- 3.7. In order to meet the requirements of the Bill the Renfrewshire Community Justice Steering Group was established in June 2015 and together developed the Transition Plan for the shadow year 2016/17. It was agreed by the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board on 9 December 2015 the plan was submitted to Scottish Government by the 31 January 2016 deadline.

- 3.8. Following submission of the Transition Plan the initial tasks for the Community Justice Steering Group will include:
- Completion of the Community Justice Steering Group Memorandum of Understanding
 - Delivering a community justice awareness raising session
 - Consider the National Strategy and Performance Framework when they are published enabling us to review the strategy against local priorities and identify any work required to facilitate reporting against the performance framework.
 - Undertake a strategic needs assessment to inform future planning.
 - Identify timescales for submission of the first Renfrewshire strategic plan.
 - Continue to work closely with the North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority to reflect ongoing actions.
- 3.9. The new model of community justice seeks to harness the resources of agencies and organisations within Renfrewshire which provide services to those involved in criminal justice, with the aim of addressing reoffending. Thus no additional resources are being provided within the new model for interventions with service users. However £50,000 per annum is available until 31 March 2018 to support the transition to the new model of working. A Lead Officer Community Justice post has been appointed to and a start date agreed. Within the new arrangements grant funding for criminal justice social work will no longer be through the Community Justice Authorities but will be allocated directly to the local authority from April 2017.
- 3.10. The new model recognises the importance of the views of the 3rd sector, service users, people with convictions and communities in reducing reoffending, thus the Bill requires Community Justice Partners to consider which community bodies are able to contribute to the preparation of the plan and make all reasonable efforts to secure participation. Membership of the Transition group therefore includes Engage Renfrewshire and the Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum.
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Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

£50,000 per annum is being made available until 31 March 2018 to support local authorities in the transition from Community Justice Authorities to Community Planning Partnerships. This is being used to appoint a 22.5 hour Lead Officer Community Justice post, the government has advised that funding from 2018 would remain under consideration. £50,000 per annum is also being made available to the 3rd Sector Community Justice Forum to consider how such organisations can best be represented within CPPs.

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

None.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

Safer and Stronger:

A priority for the Safer and Stronger Thematic Board is to reduce re-offending and as such it has been agreed that this board will have overall responsibility for ensuring the smooth transition of Community Justice into the Community Planning Partnership. In addition, the Board will also have responsibility for the development, delivery and scrutiny of the Renfrewshire Community Justice Local Improvement Plan.

The role of the Community Justice Steering Group is to support the Safer and Stronger thematic board in ensuring that all partners work together to ensure the smooth transition of community justice to community planning and in the development and delivery of the Community Justice Local Improvement Plan.

4. Legal Implications

Under the Community Justice Act Renfrewshire Council will be one of the statutory community justice partners with responsibilities as detailed in the Bill.

5. Property/Assets Implications

None.

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. Health and Safety Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

None.

10. Risk Implications

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

List of Background Papers –

(a) none

Children's Services

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Renfrewshire Community Justice Transition Plan 2016/17



**Renfrewshire
Health & Social Care Partnership**



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1. Context

National

On 7th May 2015, the Community Justice (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament, to take forward the legislative change needed to establish the new community justice model in Scotland. This builds on the Scottish Government's response to the Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland Consultation, published on 15th December 2014.

Under the new model, the Community Justice Authorities (CJAs) will be disestablished on 31 March 2017 and new community justice arrangements will be put in place at both a national and a local level. Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership recognises that they are at the heart of local strategic planning and delivery in the new model and Statutory Community Justice Partners will assume responsibility under the new model from 1 April 2016, with full responsibility being conferred from 1 April 2017.

A duty has also been placed on statutory partners to co-operate with each other in carrying out and planning activities, delivering and reporting on outcomes for community justice in Renfrewshire. The statutory community justice partners are:

- Local Authorities;
- Health Boards;
- Police Scotland;
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS);
- Skills Development Scotland;
- Integration Joint Boards (IJBs);
- the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service; and
- Scottish Ministers (in practice, the Scottish Prison Service).

Although we recognise that other non-statutory partners also play a critical role in supporting us to achieve our outcomes including the third sector and Alcohol and Drugs Partnership etc it will also be important to ensure strong links with children and adult protections committees.

The Scottish Government requested that all Community Planning Partnerships submit a transition plan covering the shadow year by 31 January 2016, to lay the foundation for future planning. Following this community justice partners are required to prepare and publish a local plan to deliver improved outcomes for community justice in their area and to report annually on their assessment as to what has been achieved. This plan will be submitted to the national body, Community Justice Scotland when established.

Local

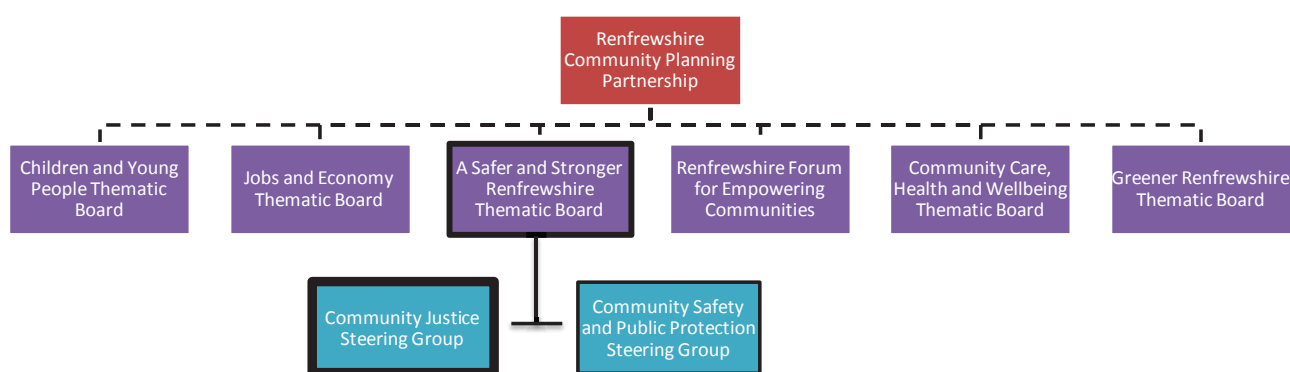
Reducing offending is a key priority for Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership and the focus on community justice plans will enhance the Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement.

The new arrangements provides the impetus to review our current strategic planning arrangements and the visibility of offenders as a key group that impact on partners activities including tackling poverty, employability and reducing alcohol and drug misuse.

2. Governance arrangements

Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership is well placed to support the transition of the new model of community justice and take steps to ensure the future planning, delivery and monitoring of services by community justice partners is in place by April 2017. It is noted that not all of the community justice partners are part of the CPP arrangements and governance arrangements will need to be more fully explored during the transition year as will links with other groups such as the Criminal Justice Board.

The diagram below provides an overview of the governance arrangement for Community Justice in Renfrewshire.



Strategic oversight for Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership is provided by the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board. This board consists of senior political leaders, chairs of partner boards and chief executives or equivalent of partner agencies and organisations.

Our positive vision for change is driven by partners through the following six thematic boards:

- Children and young people
- Jobs and the economy
- Community care, health and wellbeing
- A safer and stronger Renfrewshire
- A greener Renfrewshire
- Forum for Empowering our communities

These boards, with the exception of the Forum for Empowering Communities, are chaired by an elected member and consist of senior officers across the Community Planning Partnership and representation from our Third Sector Interface and voluntary organisations.

The Safer and Stronger Thematic Board's vision is that:

'Renfrewshire is known as a safe and tolerant place where residents and visitors enjoy a high level of personal safety and public protection and are free from crime. A culture of fairness, respect and equality exists and vulnerable children and adults are well looked after and protected'

A priority for the Safer and Stronger Thematic Board is to reduce re-offending and as such it has been agreed that this board will have overall responsibility for ensuring the smooth transition of community justice into the Community Planning Partnership. In addition, the Board

will also have responsibility for the development, delivery and scrutiny of the Renfrewshire Community Justice Local Improvement Plan.

The role of the Community Justice Steering Group is to support the Safer and Stronger thematic board in ensuring that all partners work together to ensure the smooth transition of community justice to community planning and in the development and delivery of the Community Justice Local Improvement Plan. Membership of the group includes:

- Renfrewshire Council, Children's Services
- Renfrewshire Council, Chief Executive's Service/Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue
- Scottish Courts and Tribunals
- Scottish Prison Service
- Skills Development Scotland
- Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership
- Engage Renfrewshire (TSI)
- Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum
- Victim Support
- The Wise Group
- Apex Scotland
- North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority

The steering group will have responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the outcomes and actions contained within the Community Justice Local Improvement Plan and reporting this to the Safer and Stronger Thematic Board six monthly.

The Steering Group will maintain the well established links with the Community Safety and Public Protection Steering Group. This is a strategic, Head of Service level group working as directed by the Safer and Stronger Thematic Board, the Council and the Community Protection Chief Officers Group to ensure plans, services and outcomes are in place to provide support to vulnerable people, keeping them free from abuse and neglect, respected and nurtured and valuing their human rights, equality and diversity. In addition to developing projects and programmes to prevent and address violence and anti-social behaviour and to address risks of exploitation of vulnerable people and communities it has a specific role to deliver strategic oversight and planning for key legislative and environmental changes, including the development of the future model for community justice in Scotland and progressing the first plan for community justice.

3. Build links with and between community justice partners

Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership will be the vehicle for local partnership planning and collaboration with an emphasis placed upon collective responsibility through the Community Justice Steering Group which sits underneath the Safer and Stronger Thematic

Board. However, each statutory community justice partner remain individually accountable partners.

In June 2015, the Community Planning Partnership established the Community Justice Steering Group. The initial task of the group was to develop the necessary transitional arrangements to meet the requirements of the Community Justice Bill. The steering group meets on a quarterly basis and is hosted by the Council and arranged by the Head of Service Childcare and Criminal Justice. Currently the group is developing a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Community Planning Partnership will continue to engage closely with the North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority until it is disestablished to ensure that the knowledge and experience is fully utilised and transferred. The CJA Chief Officer will play a key role in the Steering Group throughout the transition period. We will ensure that relevant CJA priorities and actions are transferred to the Renfrewshire plan as appropriate.

Under the proposed new arrangements the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) will continue to engage with partners with an interest in Community Justice at a national and local level. SPS will do so in a way that balances constructive engagement to support local working, with coherent delivery of its national obligations and objectives.

SPS recognise that for the vast majority of those that have offended, prison is not the “end point” in the system. There is a role for community justice as an alternative to custody and a strong role for community justice in supporting people on return from custody to be rehabilitated citizens. SPS is supportive of the strong and integrated relationship between prisons and the wider community that the new legislation is designed to enable.

The role of SPS in tackling reoffending and reducing the prison population is a key one. Work is already underway to help ensure that the transition between custody and community is as well integrated as it can be and SPS recently created the role of Throughcare Support Officers (TSOs) to assist in supporting this transition.

The SPS response to this transition process is in three parts:

- National strategy development. SPS continues to play an active role in the development of the national strategy and performance arrangements and the national transitions group;
- Strategic engagement. SPS is currently undertaking a mapping exercise of partnerships in an attempt to better understand the potential impact of reform; and
- SPS contribution to strategic planning. SPS is currently reviewing the data that we can make available to inform strategic intelligence assessments and the setting of local priorities as well as developing the SPS narrative for inclusion within local community justice plans.

SPS is currently developing the engagement and strategic planning work streams described above. SPS anticipates lead Governors in Charge (GICs) and Establishments being identified for each local partnership as part of this work.

Police Scotland has confirmed that there will be no change to existing arrangements arising from the transition. Police resources will be in place to continue supporting the development and delivery of community justice in Renfrewshire and they will retain the same level of commitment to manage those offenders currently under the Multi Agency Public Protection

Arrangements (MAPPA). Any changes to the resource requirement will be committed subject to local agreement and sign-off by the Divisional Commander for 'K' Division or a suitable delegated member of the senior management team based within 'K' Division.

Scottish Fire and Rescue have reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the Community Planning Partnership including any new arrangements that will be put in place in respect of the new model for community justice. The Local Senior Officer/Fire Commander from Renfrewshire has the legal capacity to approve any new local arrangements, which do not have implications nationally, and will continue to support the partnership.

The community justice partners recognise the key role that the new Integrated Joint Board (IJB) and Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (RHSCP) has in supporting adults with health and social care vulnerabilities that could contribute to an increased risk of offending. There is already a strong relationship between Renfrewshire's Community Justice Services and the Adult Services now delivered by the RHSCP. The Chief Social Work Officer is a member of the IJB and retains an oversight of and a responsibility for the delivery of Social Work's statutory functions by the RHSCP. The transition planning for both Health and Social Care Integration and the new community justice model will address the need for strong partnership working between the respective bodies.

The importance of obtaining and retaining a stable housing arrangement cannot be underestimated and Housing Services are also identified as a key partner. Renfrewshire's Housing strategy takes account of vulnerable groups and interfaces with Renfrewshire's Community Plan and Health and Social Care Commissioning Plans to ensure that a strategic approach is taken to developing housing options for all cohorts of the community.

Criminal Justice Social Work has well established links with key partners across services in Renfrewshire. The new planning arrangements will enhance existing good practice and joint working. It also provides the opportunity to focus on the prevention and early intervention agenda through the work being undertaken across Children's Services and the wider partnership to divert young people from the criminal justice system. To support young people who are coming into the system, arrangements are also being put in place to embed the Whole Systems approach which has been independently evaluated as effectively supporting young people.

In preparation of the transition plan, the Community Justice Steering Group members attended a half day development session on 30 September 2015 in Paisley Town Hall. All members participated fully in the session and their input is reflected within this plan.

In order to build a greater understanding of community justice and the implications of the new model, the Community Justice Steering Group will organise an awareness raising event early in 2016 for all stakeholders and interested parties.

The Steering Group will also undertake a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) where research, data and expert analysis will be reviewed to assess the challenges and opportunities facing Renfrewshire. This process will enable partners to receive expert input on current thinking about key community justice issues and to challenge our current ways of working. The SNA will

provide us with the opportunity to respond effectively to the national strategy and performance framework.

4. Third Sector, service users, people with convictions, and communities involvement

Third Sector

The Third Sector has been, and will continue to be, engaged and involved in delivering effective and efficient services for individuals. The sector has contributed positively to the delivery of outcomes for community justice at a local and national level. We will continue to engage and involve the Third Sector in the planning and delivery of services and improved outcomes for community justice.

As detailed in Section 2 our local Third Sector Interface, Engage Renfrewshire together with the national Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum both have a key role to play and are represented on the Community Justice Steering Group.

Engage Renfrewshire will provide the expertise to enable the partnership to make links to the appropriate voluntary and community groups who are likely to already provide services to this service group, albeit not specifically targeted, and act as a gateway to volunteering, employment opportunities and access to services.

At a national level the Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum will ensure that third sector organisations who specifically represent criminal justice interests such as national organisations will be sufficiently represented. Senior managers from specific organisations who provide services within Renfrewshire have also been invited to be members of the group.

The organisations represented by the CJVS Forum include:

- Aberlour Childcare Trust
- Access to Industry
- Action for Children
- Apex Scotland
- Barnardos' Scotland
- Canape
- Centrestage Communities
- Circle Scotland
- Cornerstone
- Cyrenians
- Families Outside
- Includem
- Mentor UK
- Paws for Progress
- Phoenix Futures Scotland
- Positive Prison? Positive Futures...
- Sacro
- Salvation Army
- Shelter Scotland
- Support in Mind Scotland
- The Richmond Fellowship Scotland
- Turning Point Scotland
- Up-to-Us
- Venture Trust
- The Wise Group

Service Users/People with convictions

Engagement with services users/those with convictions is an area that the Steering group is currently developing, the new arrangements gives partners the opportunity to develop a co-production approach. It is recognised that partners have engagement with people with convictions in a variety of settings, however the opportunity to ask views and then use this to develop and deliver services can be maximised going forward.

Communities

As a partnership we will engage with our communities in the planning and delivery of services and outcomes for community justice. We will ensure that groups and individuals have the opportunity to share their views and play a greater role within community justice. Our communities are already well engaged with the delivery of services supported by Community Payback Orders and we will adopt a similar approach to work with our communities to raise awareness of community justice and identify projects/initiatives where they would welcome restorative/community justice services.

Victim Support will play a key role in enabling us to take account of the views of victims of offenders and their engagement will be crucial.

In early 2016 we will develop a Communications Plan which will ensure that as a partnership we maintain effective communication with our stakeholders. However, we will continue to use our traditional methods of communication and engagement including: Renfrewshire Public Services Panel, Local Area Committees, Community Planning events, Police Scotland and other partners' consultation. We will also ensure that the necessary information is communicated to our local communities via a variety of methods including websites, social media, e-bulletins, the Renfrewshire Magazine etc.

5. Working with North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority

To ensure that the knowledge and experience of North Strathclyde CJA is fully utilised we continue to have ongoing dialogue regarding the services that are in place, boards, forums where they are represented to ensure that where possible we take forward the progress that is being made locally. North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority will continue to play an active role with CJA Chief Officer representation on the Community Justice Steering Group until the organisation is disestablished.

6. Partnership resources

The Scottish Government confirmed that Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnerships will receive £50,000 annually for three financial years commencing 2015/16 to support the preparation for the new model. The funding has been utilised in the creation of a Lead Officer Community Justice post (22.5 hours per week). This aligns community justice to other council bodies i.e. the Renfrewshire Child Protection and Adult Protection Committees and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership, ensuring there is a specified individual with knowledge of criminal and community justice.

Examples already exist where resources across a range of agencies are aligned to reduce reoffending as detailed below.

Public Social Partnership (PSP)

Public Social Partnerships are formal partnerships between the public and third sectors which have been formed to co-design a service to meet an identified gap in service. There are 4 PSPs operating within Renfrewshire, PSP's are funded until 31 March 2017.

Low Moss PSP is integrated within HMP Low Moss and supports short-term male prisoners rehabilitate back into their communities after release. The service covers approximately 14 local authority areas with Renfrewshire being the second largest behind Glasgow, having had 118 prisoners supported on their return. The Families First project was invited to Low Moss prison to make links with individuals from Renfrewshire and to provide information and advice to prison staff regarding supporting the families of offenders. As a result of the visit the Families First project has reached out to support additional families. In return Families First has invited Prison Staff to the Families First open day. The Low Moss PSP is led by Turning Point Scotland.

New Routes PSP is a national mentoring service for short-term male prisoners up to 25 years of age. New Routes supports Renfrewshire prisoners following release from adult male prisons except HMP Low Moss – in practice mostly from HMPs Barlinnie, Greenock and Kilmarnock. New Routes PSP is lead by the Wise Group.

SHINE PSP is a national mentoring service for women both in custody and in the community with staff integrated within the Womens' Service at Backsneddon Street in Paisley. The service supports women leaving custody for up to 1 year in the community and also women who are at risk of breaching a community order. SHINE PSP is led by Sacro.

Moving Forward PSP is a throughcare service for young male prisoners under 21 years of age who are normally held in HMP YOI Polmont. The service covers 4 local authority areas including Renfrewshire and aims to mentor the young men into employment following their release from custody. Barnardos and Action for Children jointly lead this PSP.

The Womens' Community Justice Centre

The Womens' Community Justice Service was created through redesign of existing services, and a small amount of additional Scottish government funding. Aside from involvement of the Shine PSP within Renfrewshire the service also includes support from Turning Point Scotland Turnaround Service, a staff member from Women and Children First (Childrens' Services) which enables provision of groups for women but also means that women then engage with that service for additional needs. The Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership) has recently agreed to fund an addictions post to enable additional capacity and smoother transition for women obtaining addictions and mental health support.

Adult Learning and Literacy

Working in Partnership with Polmont Young Offenders Institute, Renfrewshire's Adult Learning and Literacies Service offers a wide variety of free learning opportunities to young people who are about to be released from prison. The classes take place in local communities which helps offenders integrate/reintegrate.

National Involvement

Renfrewshire Council/Community Planning Partnership is also engaged in the development of national projects/initiatives as follows:

- A key challenge in the Prison Service is to provide equitable care and ensure timely access to Palliative Care services, within prison regimes. In order to address these challenges the **Palliative Care in Prisons Steering Group** has been established in which Renfrewshire Council plays a key role. Together with MacMillan Cancer Support, SPS and Social Work Scotland we will explore opportunities that the new model of community justice offers.
- The partnership is also one of the three pilot areas working on the **Penal Policy Improvement Project** to explore how partners can reduce the use of remand, maximise the use of community disposals by the court and reduce the negative impact on desistance from offending that short periods of imprisonment can cause.

7. Next Steps

The initial tasks for the Community Justice Steering Group will include:

- Completion of the Community Justice Steering Group Memorandum of Understanding
- Deliver a community justice awareness raising session
- Consider the National Strategy and Performance Framework when they are published
 - (a) Review national strategy against current local priorities of the partnership and
 - (b) Identify any work that will need done to facilitate us being able to report against the performance framework
- Following publication of the National Strategy and Performance framework the group will undertake a strategic needs assessment to inform future planning and delivery
- Identify the timescales for submission of our first Renfrewshire Strategic Plan to Community Justice Scotland
- Continue to work closely with North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority to ensure that any continuing actions are suitably reflected in the Renfrewshire plan